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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 18 Jun

NC2806154096

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 18 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Cancellation of Press Law Amendments Praised
2. Chief Editor Receives Death Threat
3. Israeli Petrochemical Experts' Visit Resented
4. Arab Summit To Be Discussed at Meeting
5. Muslim Brotherhood Leader Views Arab Summit, Trial of Brotherhood Members
6. Arab Summit: Preparations, Expectations Viewed
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9. Editor Husayn Comments on Press, Arab Summit
10. Campaign Against Interior Minister Continues
11. Imam of al-Shadhiliyah School of Islam Eulogized

CANCELLATION OF PRESS LAW AMENDMENTS PRAISED

President Husni Mubarak's decision to cancel the amendments introduced to the press law, amendments that were bitterly resisted by the majority of journalists, is the main story of this edition together with several articles and comments on this development.

A 1,100-word report by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid, Ashraf Khalil, and Khalid Yunus appears on pages 1 and 7 while several articles and comments appear on other pages.

In the lead story the three writers detail the meetings and deliberations that went on throughout the week involving the president, the Press Syndicate, and the prime minister and that culminated in a draft law issued by Mubarak canceling some amendments and changing others to Press Law 93 and that the People's Assembly then ratified. The story notes at the beginning that "the president's draft law generated satisfaction in journalists' circles despite the high fines that are still in force and that are beyond the journalists' income." It notes that though Mubarak approved several of the journalists' demands at his meeting with them, several demands have not been accepted. These include the demand "to punish the government employee who refuses to provide a journalist with information or provide him with false information, the right not to arrest a journalist or search his residence except in the presence of a Press Syndicate member, and reduction in the amount of fines, which are still very high."

In his 400-word "Vision" column on page 6, Ahmad al-Siyufi comments on the cancellation of the press law amendments and praises the journalists' "historic stance," saying they put aside their differences in support of freedom of speech. He castigates the Consultative Council for opposing any changes to the amendments and demands that the file of deputies who wanted to end press freedom be investigated.

Also commenting on this issue is al-Sayyid al-Ghadban, whose 500-word article appears on page 12. Calling the outcome a "relative victory," he argues that this was a victory for the people, since "the journalists were the vanguard of the people in this battle, fighting it on its behalf and to protect one of the people's most important rights." But he warns that this "relative victory" has not been a decisive one allowing the people to practice freedom of speech, noting that restrictions still apply to party and even press activities. He singles out radio and television, "which have the most influence on the masses," as still being under an "iron fist" that does not allow any objective freedom of opinion. He notes the restrictions imposed on those working in these two media organs, including the ban on forming their own union. In conclusion, he urges the "forces defending freedom of speech to take another step toward liberating the word by reducing the restrictions still shackling radio and television" and back those working in them to form their own union.

CHIEF EDITOR RECEIVES DEATH THREAT

Under the headline "A Threat To Kill the Chief Editor," the following item is carried in a box under the main story on page 1: "The AL-SHA'B chief editor received a telephone call the night before last from an unidentified person asking him not to leave his house otherwise he would be killed or at least have acid thrown at him. The chief editor has no personal enemies. AL-SHA'B says it will not change its position on fighting corruption because of these threats."

ISRAELI PETROCHEMICAL EXPERTS' VISIT RESENTED

A 60-word item on page 1 by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi says there was much resentment at Petrojet following a visit by a high-level delegation of Israeli petrochemical experts to the company's headquarters to study the possibility of setting up a joint factory with the Egyptian company.

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ARAB SUMMIT TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING

The steps and developments leading up to the Arab summit in Cairo between 21 and 23 June are detailed and commented on in several items and articles.

A short 30-word report on page 1 says that the Labor Party will hold a meeting on 19 June to discuss the summit and will be addressed by party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER VIEWS ARAB SUMMIT, TRIAL OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS

In his 1,500-word article on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Mustafa Mashhur comments on this summit. After greeting it on behalf of the Brotherhood and hailing Egypt for its initiative, he notes the dismay of Israel and the United States when the call to hold the summit was made, because they are aware of the dangers of dealing with the Arabs when they are united, and refers specifically to President Clinton's appeal to the Arabs not to rush and take steps that impede the peace before Netanyahu forms his government and declares his policy. He adds that Netanyahu has made his policies on the Golan, Jerusalem, and other issues known. He expresses the hope that the conferees will eliminate their disputes and restore cohesion among all the Arab countries and will be aware of the Zionist danger and wary of the United States, which provides it with all its needs. He also says he hopes that the expected Arab unity "will be the start and the example for the unity of Islamic countries." He warns that the "Zionist enemy's danger is not restricted to Palestine and Jerusalem alone, but involves almost all the countries of the region." He says the "Arabs must warn the United States against its continuing support for the enemy and the consequences of this for its relations with the Arab and Islamic countries. The United States must know that the Arab and Islamic peoples are seething with anger against the Zionist enemy and those who support him, because the issue of Palestine and Jerusalem concerns all Muslims." He then views the "enemy's real intentions" as witnessed by involvement in the crisis of the Yemeni islands of Hanish, help extended to the secessionists in south Sudan, and the recent agreement with Turkey and its interference in its affairs "out of fear of the appearance of Islamic governments in the arena." He notes cases of sanctions against some Islamic countries, such as Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Iran as a result of "U.S. hegemony over the United Nations and Security Council," all of which is meant "to weaken the Arab countries so that they remain easy prey for the Zionist enemy." But he asserts that the Arab nation is still alive despite the weaknesses that sometimes afflict it. He expresses the hope that some countries would not be influenced by the Western media's "tendentious" campaign against Islam. He urges the Arab summit to strengthen and activate the Arab League's work and calls on the Arab regimes to "gain their peoples' confidence by unleashing freedoms, lifting restrictions, and lifting the injustice imposed on the oppressed." He also calls on the Palestinian Authority to review its stance on the Islamic resistance and release all the detainees.

Having welcomed the summit and then the cancellation of the press law amendments, Mashhur turns to the issue of the trial of Brotherhood figures before military courts. Noting that most of those being tried are old and suffering diseases associated with age, he says "they hold prominent social positions and include university teachers, members of professional associations, and former People's Assembly members who have not deviated or practiced terrorism. Hence, this behavior is inconsistent with the spirit of the summit." He then asserts that "the Brotherhood stresses that the brothers' umbrella covers only those who are committed to true Islam and who preach God's religion through wisdom and good example. The others are renegades and the Brotherhood has no power over them. In whose interest are the cards being shuffled?"

ARAB SUMMIT: PREPARATIONS, EXPECTATIONS VIEWED

A 1,000-word article by Mahmud Bakri on pages 1 and 7 details the preparations being made to hold the Arab summit, Syrian-Libyan mediation to effect a meeting between President Mubarak and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir, without preconditions, to solve the problems between Egypt and Sudan, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's telephone call to Mubarak asking to postpone any anti-Israeli resolution that might be issued by the summit, and the contacts between the United States and Egypt's Foreign Ministry on the issues and concepts to be discussed at the summit.

A related 60-word report on page 1 by Rabi' Shahin says the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers will hold several meetings before the summit to discuss all aspects of bilateral relations.

A 1,500-word article by Jamal 'Arafah on page 6 views the preparations for the summit, the doubts that some Arab leaders will not attend it, notably King Hasan of Morocco, and the diplomats' view that the summit will focus on uniting the Arab rank and exclude the major points of difference, such as Iraq's position and border problems. In the writer's view, the other major issues to be discussed are the Jerusalem issue, support for

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the Palestinian Authority, incidents in Bahrain, Israel's nuclear weapons, the Israeli-U.S. strategic alliance, and the Israeli-Turkish military agreement. He concludes that this will be the most important summit because it will be the "summit of challenge, though this does not appear clearly due to the influence of Israel and the United States in the region. It will also be the summit of reconciliation."

Another 1,500-word article on the same issue by Rabi' Shahin appears on the same page in which he notes the U.S. efforts to prevent the summit "from adopting hardline stances, resolutions, or measures, especially toward the normalization of relations and economic cooperation between Arab countries and Israel." He adds that the summit's success depends on the elimination of bilateral conflicts, the ability to deal with existing challenges and draw up a unified peace strategy, the setting up of mechanisms for ensuring that resolutions are implemented, the revival of the Arab League's role, the adoption of a united position on the dangers facing pan-Arab security, a study of the economic aspects of Arab relations, and setting firm dates for holding other summits.

Dr. Mahjub 'Umar also writes on the summit. In his 2,500-word article appearing on page 12, he notes that the first result to emerge even before the summit was held was the halting of media campaigns between Arab countries. He urges the summit to turn from reaction to the Likud victory into action for uniting the Arab rank and exploiting the strengths and even the weaknesses of every Arab country to serve greater pan-Arab interests. Arguing that it is difficult to expect the summit to remove differences that have accumulated over 20 years, he says that Jerusalem is the issue that could unite them all and mark the restoration of their solidarity. He says: "It is enough if the summit unanimously agrees that the stance on Jerusalem will be the criteria for the position on Israel and the United States, not only for the future, but also regarding status and the present, so that if Netanyahu with Clinton or even Republican candidate Dole behind him wants to expand the settlements, he should be punished."

In his 400-word column on page 12, Islamist writer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus thanks Netanyahu for making the Arab rulers take the right path and "meet for the first time after a long estrangement to confront the danger of fundamentalism coming from occupied Jerusalem after blaming Islamic fundamentalism and holding it responsible for derailing the peace process." He adds that the "Arabs have finally realized the extent of the danger posed by the Zionists" and notes that the White House "master's" annoyance is a sign that the summit "will give the Arab interest priority over U.S. and Zionist interests." He also holds the view that Washington fears the summit will end in full reconciliation, which would be a catastrophe for the Arabs' enemies, and says he hopes the summit will fulfill the Arab peoples' hopes.

DEFENSE OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETS

A 200-word report by Layla 'Abd-al-Hamid reports on a meeting held at the Labor Party premises by the National Committee for the Defense of Prisoners of Conscience for the detainees' families in which party leader Ibrahim Shukri hailed the committee's work and said detention will only make the detainees stronger. He urged everyone to work so as to let the people obtain their full rights. Committee rapporteur Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus stressed that the committee will defend anyone unjustly detained regardless of his ideas and noted that the committee now comprises over 130 members and has formed several subcommittees. Mrs. 'Adil Husayn spoke about her experience when her husband was arrested while other speakers praised the committee's work.

FACTUAL REPORT ON TRIAL OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS

An unattributed factual report on page 3 details the trial of Brotherhood members accused of establishing the al-Wasat Party that began on 15 June. The report highlights that the majority of defendants refused to appoint lawyers and demanded to be tried before civilian courts. Several defendants asked to read the indictment against them. The report adds that "the surprise came when the official indictment did not refer to the attempt to form the al-Wasat Party and this confirms that some detainees' effort to form a political party, as the case alleges, was not a crime or circumvention of the Constitution as the security services claimed." At the end of the day the court decided to release Mahmud Abu-Rayyah and Hasan Judah and adjourn until 25 June.

EDITOR HUSAYN COMMENTS ON PRESS LAW, ARAB SUMMIT

In his 5,000-word article on page 2 Chief Editor Majdi Husayn focuses on two issues, the cancellation of the press law amendments and the forthcoming Arab summit. On the first issue he praises President Mubarak for canceling the amendments and the unity shown by the journalists in their opposition to the amendments. Moving on to the issue of the Arab summit, he argues that Israel is not interested in peace because "it fears peace more than war," does not want straightforward, but one-way, trade relations that

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are in its favor, and fears opening its labor markets to Arab manpower because of the effects this would have on its social fabric. He asserts that "Israel can only be a hostile entity" and that "it cannot enter into a Middle East market similar to the European one, which opens borders unconditionally between the member states, because such a market would dismantle the Jewish entity from within." He concludes that "the Zionist entity is in a vicious circle eroding itself from within. It cannot live in peace with itself or with the outside. Briefly, if Israel lived in real peace in its Arab surrounding, then it would melt and be dismantled and the reason for its existence and cohesion would be lost." After noting that al-Jihad is an Islamic duty, he says that while the Arab countries are not yet ready to fight jihad, they "must at least support the jihad of Hizballah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Palestine's al-Jihad, and also back Syria and the Lebanese Government" and argues that the "summit should — at least — assert the legitimacy of resistance to occupation and each country should secretly do what it can." Admitting that the Arabs cannot "enter into an immediate war with Israel," he urges them "at least to cooperate to provide an air defense system over Lebanon and Syria so as to stop the Israeli planes' attacks." The second point he urges the Arab summit to do is "to freeze or stop normalization with Israel, not until talks are resumed — since these have been going on for 19 years without result — but until Israel's withdrawal from Jerusalem and all the territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of the Palestinian state."

CAMPAIGN AGAINST INTERIOR MINISTER CONTINUES

The paper's campaign against Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and members of his family, accusing them of nepotism and corruption, continues unabated. The whole of page 3 is devoted to this issue. A 1,200-word article by Mahfuz 'Azzam details the minister's refusal to comply with a ruling from the Higher Administrative Court on a case not specified but known as Case No. 543 for the year 39 [as published]. He claims that al-Alfi was made a member of the Consultative Council to give him immunity and accuses the council speaker of failing to act to lift this immunity. A 2,300-word article details the involvement of al-Alfi's wife, son, and other family members in the company al-Qadisiyah, which is accused of terrorizing citizens so as to seize their land on the Ismailia-Cairo road, land that is due to be developed into urban centers. The third item is virtually an editorial by the paper claiming that the minister failed in his latest interview with AKHBAR AL-YAWM to deny any of the allegations published by AL-SHA'B. It also takes him to task for criticizing the late al-Azhar imam, Jad-al-Haqq, after his death, "for being lax in fighting terrorism and for being unenlightened."

IMAM OF AL-SHADHILIYAH SCHOOL OF ISLAM EULOGIZED

Pages 8 to 11 are devoted to obituaries and reviews of the life of Dr. Shams-al-Din 'Abdallah al-Fasi, imam of the al-Shadhiliyah School of Islam, said to be a direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad. The articles mark 40 days since his death in London.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 19 Jun

NC2806124796

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 19 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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POSITIVE ISLAMIC REACTION TO CAIRO SUMMIT NOTED

A 400-word report by 'Abd-al-'Ati Mahdi on page one discusses Islamic reaction to the Arab summit in Cairo. Islamic ulema, the report notes, welcomed the convention of the comprehensive Arab summit on Friday, and demanded that such summits be held periodically, not only when events warrant. The report cites various statements by ulema on the summit convention. Dr. Isma'il al-Daftar says that the summit is extremely necessary at this point in time. "He demanded that the summit rise to the required level of the Arab and Islamic nation's hopes and issue decisive resolutions serving the

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interests of the nation and its affairs," the report says. Dr. Ahmad Taha Rayyan expressed his optimism for the summit and "called for it to be a permanent summit that does not convene only under special circumstances."

AL-AZHAR STANDARD OF EDUCATION DROPPING, 'QUITE POOR'

A 200-word report on page 1 notes that the standard of education among al-Azhar graduates is quite poor. The grand imam received a report about this matter which warned that al-Azhar's reputation is at stake, that the standard of the graduates has fallen, and they "fail to deliver the Friday sermon and perform the duties of the call."

FRENCH MODEL CONVERTED TO ISLAM, ATTACKED BY JEWISH GROUPS

A 100-word report on page 1 notes that a crusader campaign has taken place against a French model who embraced Islam and renounced her life as a model. The model, identified as Fabien, reportedly accused some media of publishing photographs of her modelling "semi-indecent clothes." The report says that "numerous French racist Jewish groups" are waging campaigns against Islam and Islamic figures.

CONVICTS AT RIKERS ISLAND EMBRACING ISLAM

A 300-word report, also on page 1, says that 1000 prisoners in Rikers Island prison in the United States have embraced Islam. The report notes that there are 3000 prisoners on the island, 900 of whom are Muslim, and of the latter 250 are practicing Muslims. The report details the history and life of a drug addict, murderer, and thief, who was released in 1974 after having served many sentences. He embraced Islam and renounced his previous life. Now, he preaches the religion at the prison and converts many of the convicts.

U.S.-ARAB SOCIAL, ECONOMIC COUNCIL IN CALIFORNIA REPORTED

A 150-word report on page 1 notes the activities of the U.S.-Arab Social and Economic Council in California, which supports Arabs in the United States and tries to build relations between them and Arab businessmen, doctors, professionals, and lawyers. The Council is also working on establishing an Arab school in the United States to teach children their mother tongue. The report stresses that "the Council has no political objectives or goals." "The Council could probably become a nucleus for establishing a broad-based Arab Islamic grouping, which includes all Islamic and Arab societies in California" the report says.

STATE COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN ASKS SOCIETY TO RESORT TO ISLAM

Page 1 publishes a 100-word report citing statements by Counselor Tariq al-Bishri, first vice-chairman of the State Council and head of the Fatwa Division, in which he says "the state supported secularism for 150 years, and this policy did not succeed in resolving the problems of society." Egyptian society, the report notes, is now asked to resort to Islam to solve all its problems. Al-Bishri notes "Islam does not have a specific theory, but it provides the appropriate atmosphere for the realities of the changing society."

EDITORIAL ASKS ULEMA TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO PEOPLE

Al-Hamzah Di'bis, chairman of the board of directors of AL-NUR, writes the 800-word editorial on page 1. He addresses the editorial to the religious ulema, whom he says should perform their duties properly. He maintains that it is not enough for the masses to have contact with the ulema on Fridays only, but that the ulemas should speak to the people during the week in the evenings after prayers. Di'bis says the ulema and preachers should not leave any time or opportunity for the ignorant among Muslims to affect or influence the masses.

PAPER REPORTS ON MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE ON JERUSALEM

Page 2 publishes a 50-word report on the conference in Beirut entitled "Muslims and Christians Together For Jerusalem." The report notes that the conferees "demanded scientific steps be taken to preserve the Arab identity of Jerusalem" and visited the town of Qana in southern Lebanon, where the Israelis committed a "massacre" against civilians.

AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ON PROBLEMS, POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Page 3 publishes a 3000-word interview with Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, president of al-Azhar University, in which he discusses educational and other problems facing the university. He notes that one problem is the boarding arrangements for students. There are not enough dormitories for the students and many seek board outside campus. He notes that the university administration is trying to resolve this problem. He denies that the university has been afflicted by "intellectual stagnation," but notes that efforts are being made to develop the curricula so that they address modern issues. Asked about what sort of issues the ulema should address regarding problems of our modern times, he lists the issues of banking, financial dealings, drugs and white poisons, organ transplants, and plastic surgery.

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He stresses al-Azhar's social role and the services it provides to the people, such as emergency clinics, religious services, and combating desertification, among other things. He explains that the standard of education has fallen on all levels, not only at al-Azhar. He believes that the solution lies in improving the pre-university educational system.

STATISTICS PROFESSOR INTERVIEWED ON CAIRO SUMMIT

Page 3 also publishes a 1100-word interview with Dr. 'Arif al-Dasuqi, professor of statistics at Cairo University and other Arab universities and an Egyptian intellectual who carries the concerns of the Arab and Islamic nations on his shoulders. The interview focuses on the Arab summit recently held in Cairo and Israel's views on it and on peace in the region. He maintains that Israel wants to go back on the peace agreements it reached with the Arabs, which would cost it a great deal. It knows that if the Arabs unite their stances, it would be in a much weaker position; so its policy is to divide and fragment the Arabs. He notes that the general policy of the state of Israel has always been the same, governed by the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, whether the Likud or the Labor Party rule the country. He criticizes those Arab countries that have economic dealings with Israel because "they believe that that is the key to economic cooperation with the countries close to the United States." He stresses the importance of Arab economic unity to combat an Israeli monopoly over the region. In answer to a question on U.S. bias to Israel, he says: "We ought to understand that U.S. policy in the Middle East region is not in the interest of the Arabs and the Muslims. If we accept this matter as a fact, we should then act accordingly and take a united stand which all parties agree to." He adds that the Arabs can command the respect of the rest of the world with their behavior, "and we can see how the world respected the Arab stand in 1973." He says: "We must emerge from this summit with specific Arab stances on all the problems and united opinions on which everyone agrees." On the UN stance, he says the United Nations has always sided with the more powerful because they can impose their conditions.

ARTICLE COMPARES, CONTRASTS AL-AZHAR WITH 'VIOLENCE GROUPS'

Page 4 publishes what it calls "A Critical Reading of the Ideology of the Violence Groups," consisting of a 2000-word article by 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zarqani that compares and contrasts the ideologies and methods of the extremist groups with al-Azhar. The article notes that al-Azhar and the extremist groups both believe that the government in Egypt should apply Islamic shari'ah; however, these groups use "violence, murder, and their hands for making changes, which are rejected by religion as methods to realize their alleged objectives." They also agree with al-Azhar over the fact that Muslims should be governed by a Muslim, but it is not acceptable that they should use Islamic shari'ah to realize political objectives. The article says: "These groups describe western civilization as ignorant, materialistic, and heretic, while we all know that the west is the source of technological knowledge and any industrial progress in our times." It further states that Muslims should use what is beneficial to them from western civilization.

The article then contrasts the ideology of al-Azhar with that of the extremist groups and lists some differences between them. One of these is that al-Azhar condemns violence as a means to achieve its goals, while these groups use violence as their sole means to achieve change. Another point is that the violence groups believe the regime in Egypt is not ruling through Islamic shari'ah, whereas al-Azhar accepts parts of the regime's applications as shar'iah. The groups reject all government institutions, one of which is al-Azhar. In addition, the groups are opposed to the decision-making method within al-Azhar, while their own methods of decision-making are not clear or known. The article notes that Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, former grand imam of al-Azhar, "attributed violence and extremism to a number of reasons including not applying the shari'ah, not teaching religion seriously at universities and schools, suppressing freedoms, and excesses committed by the media."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 21 Jun

NC2906070396

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 21 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Conference Urges Reconciliation, Ambassador's Expulsion
2. Netanyahu Reportedly Defines New Concept of Israeli Strategy
3. Writer Notes Arab Means To Confront Israel
4. Labor Party Official on U.S.-Israeli Plots, Islamic Awakening
5. Muslim Brotherhood Guide Notes Islam's Status
6. Egyptian Court Verdicts Against Israeli Offenders Cited
7. French Official on Immigration Laws, Algerian Ties

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CONFERENCE URGES RECONCILIATION, AMBASSADOR'S EXPULSION

An approximately 540-word front page report by Subhi Buhayri says the Labor Party secretariat in Alexandria organized a "massive popular conference." The conference called for pursuing Arab efforts to unify ranks and effect a "collective reconciliation, whether domestically between governments and peoples or on the foreign level among governments themselves." The aim, the report adds, is to face the "Zionist enemy, strive to set up a common Arab market, halt all forms of normalization with Israel, "expel the Israeli ambassador from Egypt," and achieve reconciliation among all the Arab and Islamic countries.

Addressing the audience, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn said: "The enemies' conspiracies over the past six years have all failed after the Arab peoples proved that they are capable of handling challenges. The failure of the U.S.-Zionist alliance in the region confirms that the stances of the nationalist forces that have been advocating reconciliation and unity are the most rightful."

He added: "The U.S.-Zionist alliance was unable to destroy Iraq, to partition Yemen, to humiliate the brothers in Libya, and to divide Sudan. Thank God, all these goals foundered on the rock of a strong Arab and Islamic will."

Speaking on behalf of the Muslim Brotherhood, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im said: "All the Islamic trend's sacrifices were aimed at elevating God's cause. Our enemies who sought to infiltrate us still bear every grudge and hatred for us and we must confront them."

Another speaker, 'Adil 'Id al-Muhami, said "there is no trust between peoples and rulers" and that all Arab regimes are "authoritarian."

Wafd Party Higher Committee member Muhammad 'Id also spoke at the gathering. He said: "The Arab nation's predicament has resulted from the Arab regimes' collusion with the U.S.-Zionist enemy. They must know that the Arab people will never surrender. We hope the summit will adopt a program based on pan-Arab interests on the condition that the main objective be a jihad to liberate Palestine from the filth of the aggressors."

Another speaker, Wajdi Ghunaym, said: "Our issue with Israel is Jerusalem, which is regarded as an Islamic property, just like Mecca and Medina. The summit should have been an Islamic one to unify ranks."

NETANYAHU REPORTEDLY DEFINES NEW CONCEPT OF ISRAELI STRATEGY

An approximately 1,440-word report on pages 1 and 8, filed by Mahmud Bakri and Rabi' Shahin, discusses developments in the runup to the Arab summit that wound up on 23 June 1996.

The report says AL-SHA'B "has learned" that Netanyahu has defined a new concept of Israel's future strategy, which he will discuss during his coming trip to the United States.

The report adds that the concept involves various elements, including the following: 1. Regarding Israel as the gateway for strategic security in the Middle East; 2. Israel playing an effective role in all the region's security events and arrangements, "especially in those that take place between the United States and Arab countries;" 3. Linking U.S. strategic security to that of Israel through a joint military committee comprising the two chiefs of staff "to frequently assess the region's security conditions and face joint challenges;" 4. Israel's participation in various security arrangements in the region on the grounds that any security incident must be of interest to Israel whether directly or indirectly; and 5. Strengthening security ties between Israel and neighboring countries "with reference to a unique U.S. role in this regard."

The report notes that this strategic concept also involves "numerous secrets and unknown clauses."

WRITER NOTES ARAB MEANS TO CONFRONT ISRAEL

A 650-word article on page 2, written by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah, reviews the Arabs' situation after the election of Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister and ahead of the Arab summit that concluded on 23 June.

In his article, headlined "These Are The Weapons The Arabs Must Take up in The Face of Israel and The United States, 'Arafah says such weapons include Arab solidarity and security and the Arabs' boycott of Israel. He adds that "Perhaps the strongest weapon of all is the Lebanese Islamic resistance and the Palestinian Islamic resistance's martyrdom jihad operations." These weapons, he notes, "proved an unparalleled effectiveness against the Zionists and destroyed their security system."

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL ON U.S.-ISRAELI PLOTS, ISLAMIC AWAKENING

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes an approximately 3,500-word article on page 5, listing his demands from the Arab summit, which wound up on

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Sunday 23 June, the "Turkish-Israeli-U.S. pact", and the "Islamic awakening."

He says: "After a long period of maneuvers and covert and overt contacts, it has been proven that those who made such contacts were chasing a dream; there was no Jerusalem, no peace, no crippled Palestinian state, and no withdrawal from one occupied inch of land."

Discussing Arab summits, he says the Cairo Arab summit should put Arab differences in context and "our leaders" should remember that elements of division among the Arab and Islamic peoples are "much less" than the factors of unity and integration. He adds that there should be an "explicit rejection of the embargo on Iraq, Libya, and Sudan." Speaking about Sudan, he says: "It is time that leaders in Egypt and Sudan ended the unjustifiable tension and set an example for others."

Among his demands is "coordination of stances against the U.S.-Israeli alliance." He says: "This means quitting the negotiations and separate contacts [with Israel] and preventing Arab states from establishing ties with the Zionist entity, which insists on humiliation and occupation."

Husayn demands support for the "combat axis in Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine." He says: "In my assessment, this is the most important point on which to focus. This axis—with its missiles and martyrdom weapons—is the one that is now adjusting the balance of power in favor of the Arabs and Muslims. It is the one that causes panic and confusion to the U.S.-Israeli alliance and it is the one that led, as we saw, to the toppling of the Israeli Government."

He says: "The coming weeks herald sedition in Lebanon and undermine the close Syrian-Lebanese relations." He adds that the movement of Israeli aircraft and ships to Turkey and the Turkish Army's massing on the Syrian border are "warning signals that must be seen very seriously." He adds that these moves must not be regarded as just intimidation or "a war of nerves" and that the Arab summit's main task must be confronting "this potentially serious aggression." He goes on to say that the Arab leaders "must be sure that God's deception outlasts that of the U.S.-Zionist alliance."

Turning to Turkey, he says the use of Turkish power in the Arab region "will only serve as a support for the U.S.-Zionist plots to dominate the region." "When the harvest season comes, Turkey will not be given any portion worth having, because Israel refuses any regional contender when it comes to looting and leadership," he adds.

He notes that "against this failed plot that is based on Turkish bigotry," "we see how the Islamic awakening has moved the Turkish people in the right direction." He adds: "The Refah Party will take power there, God willing, if not today, in the near future, and then the current trends and alliances will gradually change. Even under the current circumstances, Turkey's national interests prompted growing cooperation between Turkey and Islamic Iran against expectations."

Under a subhead, "Islam is the Leader of the Arabs' Battle Against the U.S.-Zionist Alliance," Husayn says: "The Arab region is the heart of the Islamic nation and the arena of a major clash with the U.S.-Zionist alliance. All the global arrogant forces have established and backed Israel to harm this heart of the Islamic nation. Zionism knows for certain that the current Islamic upsurge is the greatest danger to its future. Therefore, it is leading an international alliance against this upsurge worldwide, particularly in our region. The Likud bloc now ruling Israel together with its allies is the bloc of Jews who are the fiercest enemies of the believers."

Noting that he has read the writings of "some people" who warned against calls for Islamic rule, he says: "We tell the Arab leaders never to allow the continuation of this awkward and mad war on the advocates of Islam as these foolish people are urging you. We tell the Arab leaders: Never treat Turkey's Muslim people like Zionists. As for Iran: It is a crime that you should collude with the enemies to strike or punish it." He adds that this "sincere advice" is "given in particular" to the leaders in Egypt.

Discussing what is required of Egypt, he says: "We demand that opportunities be open to nationalist forces to enable them to play their role in charting and implementing policies. This involves many measures, primarily halting military trails of the al-Wasat Party's mujahidin and releasing those convicted for belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD GUIDE NOTES ISLAM'S STATUS

An approximately 900-word, unattributed report on page 7 says Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri held a party in his home to honor celebrities who took part in a eulogy ceremony for a deceased intellectual.

Speaking at the gathering, Muslim Brotherhood's General Guide Mustafa Mashhur said "the relationship between Arabism and Islam is genuine." He added that Islam is both a religion and a "comprehensive way of life and that it cannot be compared with man-made systems, such as totalitarianism and capitalism." He noted that "the future is for Islam, God willing, and that this religion cannot be destroyed."

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EGYPTIAN COURT VERDICTS AGAINST ISRAELI OFFENDERS CITED

An unattributed report on the same page, about 720-words, says the Egyptian Higher State Security Court in al-Tur, southern Sinai, passed in just one week scores of verdicts against Israelis for smuggling weapons, ammunition, drugs, and forging currencies. The report notes that "this is another fact to be added to other evidence, all of which consistently prove that Israel is Egypt's arch enemy, despite the claims of the advocates of normalization." The report names the convicts and sentences passed against them.

FRENCH OFFICIAL ON IMMIGRATION LAWS, ALGERIAN TIES

AL-SHA'B's last page, 12, features an approximately 1,100-word interview conducted in France with an adviser to the "French Ministry of Interior and Relations Between Religions".

The French official is asked about a wide range of issues, including new immigration laws, treatment of Muslim migrants, visa restrictions, veiled Muslim school girls, violence, the killing of French monks, and ties with Algeria.

To a question about a recent immigration law, he says no new law has been introduced and that what is new is that the existing law is being implemented scrupulously. Answering another question, he says "indeed" there are fears because of the increasing Muslim communities that number about five million. He notes that mostly they do not integrate with society and form societies of their own. "Even their French is not the same language we speak," he adds. He goes on to say that they do not dissolve in society and "therefore we do not welcome them."

Asked about "growing racism in Europe, particularly in Germany against Turks and in France against Muslims," and how to put an end to this, he says: "I do not deny that. The solution lies in stemming the flood of emigration from countries of the poor south by securing a dignified life for these countries' peoples so that they will not be compelled to immigrate to richer countries."

Asked about "rumors" that French security men used tough measures against Arab Maghreb nationals during last years's explosions, he says a number of Moroccans and Algerians were actually arrested and "I admit that harsh behavior was involved." He adds that what might justify these measures is that they led to the arrest of the culprits.

To a question about tight visa restrictions to enter France, he acknowledges that they are indeed stringent in granting entry visas because some visitors seek permanent residence and jobs and "we already suffer unemployment in the country."

The French official is asked about banning Muslim school girls from wearing veils "which came as a shock to everyone who regards France a country of personal freedom." He replies by saying that France is a secular state that does not encourage the promotion of religions and that there are norms that ban religious manifestations in schools.

Asked about "terrorist' Carlos and why his trial has not been heard, he says Carlos is still in prison and there is no more interest in his case. He adds that Carlos will certainly be tried.

To a question on why former Lebanese exiled General 'Awn was banned for addressing the European Parliament, he says they were simply implementing the rules of political asylum.

Asked about violence, he says: "We are against all forms of violence. We look at the act not at the objective of that act." He adds that at the same time, they grant political asylum rights to those who are "fighting for noble causes."

He says that they reject the acts of violence in Algeria and that the killing of seven French monks was a disaster for French-Algerian relations. He adds that if its proven that the Armed Islamic Group committed that act, this will make dialogue and trust with that group difficult.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: FIDA Urges 'National' Meeting To Tackle Israeli Policies

JN0107140196 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jul 96 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Central Committee of the Palestinian Democratic Union Party-FIDA urged the PLO; the Palestinian National Authority; and all Palestinian nationalist, democratic, and Islamic groups to firmly confront the new Israeli Government's plans to expand, Judaize, and annex the city of Jerusalem; build settlements in the West Bank and isolate it from the Gaza Strip; and deem the River Jordan Israel's eastern borderline. It also urged a confrontation of the new Israeli Government's rejection of the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and independent statehood. Additionally, it denounced the continued enforcement of a security and economic siege on the Palestinian people and their National Authority as well as Israel's failure to comply with the

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agreements the former Israeli Government signed with the PLO.

FIDA called upon all Palestinian political forces to hold an urgent all-embracing national meeting to examine the current circumstances and new challenges, reinforce Palestinian national unity, and confront the Israeli policy, which is aimed at Judaizing Jerusalem, encroaching upon its holy shrines, stifling its national institutions, confiscating lands, and expanding settlements. It also called for releasing the prisoners held in Israeli jails, lifting the Israeli blockade clamped on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and resisting the Israeli measures aimed at effecting a separation between them. Additionally, it called for ensuring the right of refugees and displaced persons to return home and guaranteeing that the Palestinian people will exercise their right to self-determination on their homeland and establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The FIDA Central Committee held its regular meeting on 28 June. It commended the Cairo Arab summit resolutions and urged the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian Council of Ministers to use these resolutions to restore coordination over the peace process and joint action with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and also to coordinate with all Arab states so as to enhance Arab solidarity and implement the summit resolutions, particularly those related to making any progress in Arab-Israeli normalization contingent upon Israel's compliance with the agreements it signed with the PLO.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Najjab Reacts to Netanyahu's Statements on Settlements

JN0107175496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1120 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Interview with Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Salim 'Arif; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Arif] Brother Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, good evening.

[Al-Najjab] Good evening.

['Arif] In statements to THE WASHINGTON POST, Israeli Prime Minister Binyanim Netanyahu noted Israel's determination to continue its settlement plans along the areas abutting the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] areas. This contravenes the peace process. What is your reaction?

[Al-Najjab] This means that the new Israeli Government will embark on settlement activity in all areas outside Areas A and B. Of course, Netanyahu's statements constitute a complete retreat from what was agreed on with Israel, whether in the Oslo agreement or in subsequent agreements. This proves that the new Israeli Government's assertion that it is committed to the peace process and to the agreements that were signed before its assumption of power is false. Its stands on settlements and Jerusalem refute all the false manifestations of flexibility which the new Israeli Government is trying to show. Of course, what we need are deeds, not words. There is a clear plan to maintain and expand settlements. The response came in the form of a popular move by landowners who bravely confronted the Israeli bulldozers and wave of settlement activity.

['Arif] Mr. al-Najjab, let me interrupt you about this little detail. There was a spontaneous reaction by the masses and those who were harmed by the land confiscations and the bulldozers of settlement. Are there programmed, practical, and scientifically studied plans to confront this settlement activity, especially since this activity has escalated recently?

[Al-Najjab] In fact, what you described as a spontaneous reaction by the landowners was natural and healthy and reflects the Palestinian people's adherence to their land. First, they stood to defend their land and then asked other parties and the PNA to help them in this regard. This is a positive move reflecting an advanced militant spirit. Of course, we will confront settlement activity not only through popular confrontations, as we used to do in the past. Such confrontations are important and must continue, but the PNA, as a catalyst of the national Palestinian struggle, has a role in confronting this settlement activity, especially through plans to cultivate the land and encourage Palestinian farmers to remain on their farms. To make this possible, rural roads must be paved and an extensive agricultural reform program must be initiated to help Palestinian farmers hold on to their farms and earn their living from them.

Also, the Legislative Council, for example, has broad connections. It has responsibilities that go beyond the domestic level. It is required to reconsider many regulations that used to make it easy for Israel to control and confiscate Palestinian land. The Legislative Council has broad relations with Arab and international parliaments. It should make those parliaments aware of Israel's practices and provide them with accurate and specific information. It should also ask those esteemed parliaments to play their role in defending international law, which bans Israel from building settlements. [passage omitted]

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Palestinian Affairs: PA's al-Husayni Discusses Orient House, Jerusalem

NC0207111396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0540 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian Authority [PA] official in charge of the Jerusalem file, has described President Mubarak's visit to France yesterday as a boost for Arab rights and the peace process, emphasizing that Egypt has always been a pioneer in this direction.

In an interview with the Voice of the Arabs broadcast today, al-Husayni asserted the importance of the European stance in supporting the Middle East peace process. He added that this stance should be promoted, developed, and translated into practical steps by virtue of the historic and firmly established ties between Europe and the Middle East.

Talking about the Israeli stance on Orient House in Jerusalem, the Palestinian official stressed that the Israelis have not yet taken any measures, adding that the activities of Orient House are focused on political issues and the interests of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and will stay as such until the end of negotiations.

Touching on the Likud government's stances, al-Husayni said: If Binyamin Netanyahu considers the basis of the peace process to be preconditions then this will be destructive for the whole issue.

In a second interview with AL-AHRAM today, al-Husayni expressed his deep satisfaction so far with the outcome of the Arab summit held recently in Cairo. He stressed the need to implement the summit resolutions on the collective and individual levels. He added that he expects more Israeli repressive measures in the period ahead to tighten the noose around Palestinians living in Jerusalem. Al-Husayni emphasized that the introduction of new hardline Israeli Government members does not augur well. He added that the ability of the Arabs to face Netanyahu is greater than their ability to face Peres, since what is happening now is exactly what happened when Peres was in power, albeit in bigger doses. The Palestinian official expressed his belief that a decisive and clear Arab position will be adequate to force Netanyahu to retreat from his hardline positions.

Faysal al-Husayni warned of the continuation of the current situation, which will result not only in the return of the Intifadah, but something bigger and with greater impact.

On his recent visit to the United States, al-Husayni said: The visit was to discuss several issues including Orient House, because there is talk of shutting it down. But I believe the Israelis have retreated from this position and stopped talking about shutting it down. They are only talking about stopping illegal activities in Orient House. He added: The Israeli police have issued a statement saying that Orient House is doing nothing illegal. He pointed out that the United States does not approve of the shutdown but the Americans advise us to remain calm and to allow no provocative action that will force the Israelis to act.

On Jerusalem, al-Husayni said he expects a new wave of Israeli measures to be adopted in Jerusalem. The measures are aimed at causing more problems for the Palestinians in the town by increasing taxes and attacking the houses that belonged to Jews 70 years ago and that are now under Palestinian control with the aim of returning them to their owners, the Jews, al-Husayni said.

Palestinian Affairs: Israel Says Fatah Leaflet 'Fake,' Published by Hamas

TA0207075996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 96 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The defense establishment believes that the leaflet distributed in Hebron two days ago which calls for the resumption of the intifadah and was signed by Fatah cells is a fake and was published by local Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements, using the stamp of the Fatah Strike Committees. The establishment believes that the Hamas elements used the name of the Fatah groups on the leaflet to make it appear to carry more weight.

It is also believed that Hamas will make additional attempts to cause ferment in Hebron by distributing leaflets and attempting to encourage Fatah elements to clash with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The IDF and Fatah are examining the leaflet at this time. Fatah members have claimed that they did not distribute the leaflet. It has been learned that sources in 'Arafat's bureau denied that such a leaflet was issued.

The leaflet distributed two days ago also calls on the residents of Hebron to stage a general commercial strike on 9 July. According to reports received at the defense establishment, it appears that Hamas elements, while trying to carry out terror attacks, are organizing and encouraging merchants to participate in the strike. IDF sources believe that official Fatah elements oppose the Hamas activities, but it is likely that Hebron residents support the organization.

Central Command sources said they believe that Hamas might try to carry out terror attacks in the coming days because Israel is delaying its decision on the

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redeployment in the city. A military source reported that "no decision has been made yet on whether to redeploy in the city, but discussions on the issue are continuing and IDF commanders are recommending that it be carried out." According to the source, "if there are no terror attacks, it is believed that the IDF will redeploy in Hebron." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Further on Leaflet Urging Intifadah, 'Escalation Day'

TA0107160296 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1430 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A second leaflet issued by a group calling itself "The Strike Forces of the Popular Committees for Palestinian National Solidarity" was issued yesterday. Like the first leaflet, issued June 21, the leaflet calls for a renewed Intifada in Hebron until Israeli redeployment.

The leaflet uses Intifada language and calls for "a renewal of all Intifada activities on a daily basis, including burning tires and throwing stones, iron bars, and Molotov cocktails at occupation soldiers and settlers, and placing roadblocks of stone in the streets."

It calls for this Friday [7 July] to be "a special escalation day" of demonstrations in the city.

It calls for the 9th of the month, next Tuesday, to be a general strike like in the days of the Intifada. The strike day was canceled early this year after all the cities except for Hebron were transferred to the Palestinian Authority.

The head of the pro-Fatah Popular Committees in Hebron is 'Azmi al-Shuyukhi, who sources said is now wanted by Israel.

Israeli forces raided the office of al-Shuyukhi's brother, Hijazi, today at about noon. The soldiers confiscated the office's computer, disks and some papers. Hijazi, an attorney by training, runs the al-Ibrahimi Renaissance Cultural Center, which gives language courses. Hijazi was released after about three hours of detention.

'Azmi al-Shuyukhi said his brother "has nothing to do with the Popular Committees."

Palestinian Affairs: Hebron Cultural Center Raided; Owner Detained by Army

TA0107131296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli army unit raided the Hebron al-Ibrahimi Cultural Center, owned by Attorney Hijazi al-Shuyukhi, before noon today. The unit confiscated the center's computer, some computer discs, and various documents. The center's owner was detained for questioning.

Informed Palestinian sources in Hebron told our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah that the background to this operation might be the statement distributed last night in Hebron calling for a renewal of the intifadah. The statement was signed by the Strike Forces of the Popular Committees for Palestinian National Solidarity. It should be noted that 'Azmi al-Shuyukhi, who heads these committees, is the brother of Hijazi al-Shuyukhi.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives French President's Message, Troika Envoys

JN0107171796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a message of support from French President Jacques Chirac. Chirac's message to 'Arafat was conveyed by Camille Cabana, director general of the Paris-based Arab Institute for Middle East Affairs, when he met with 'Arafat at the Presidential Office in Gaza this afternoon. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President 'Arafat, told us that in his message to the president, French President Chirac stressed his full support for the peace process and the Palestinian stands. During the meeting, discussions dealt with the latest developments of the peace process. 'Arafat asked Cabana to convey a message to President Chirac.

In a separate development, President 'Arafat received the Troika states' consuls at the Presidential Office in Gaza at noon today. He discussed with them the latest political developments. Discussions also dealt with the results of Arab summit, the European summit, and the EU role in advancing the peace process in light of the current political changes. Support for the National Authority was also discussed.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Council will hold its ordinary session in the Ramallah Governorate 3-4 July. Nahid al-Rayyis, deputy speaker of the Legislative Council, stated that the specialized committees will meet tomorrow. The Legislative Council will discuss the committees' reports and a number of issues on the agenda.

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Palestinian Affairs: PNC Speaker on Visit to Cairo, IPU Membership

JN0107083696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Telephone interview with Salim al-Za'nun, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-Adib, speaker of the Palestine National Council, in Cairo, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the Jericho studio; from the "A New Day" feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, Brother Abu-al-Adib. [Al-Za'nun] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] I believe that this visit to Cairo is extremely important.

[Al-Za'nun] Yes, it is.

[Al-Barqawi] It is important because first of all it is the first official visit, and second, because it is taking place in the current circumstances experienced by the Arab nation and at a time when Palestinian-Egyptian relations are growing rapidly.

[Al-Za'nun] Yes. Actually, we wanted our first visit after the 21st session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to be to the Arab Republic of Egypt. We accepted invitation of the speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, who is also the head of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU]. [passage omitted]

We are at the threshold of an important IPU meeting that will take place in Beijing on 16 September. We are preparing to discuss two important issues at the conference. The first is to acquire full IPU membership for the PNC. This means fighting the battle to emphasize the Palestinian people's sovereignty, particularly now that the Israel Government is run by Likud, which is trying to turn back the clock.

Our second issue is a proposal to place the Jerusalem question on the IPU agenda. This entails fighting another battle at a time when Israel has begun to violate the agreements that were concluded between the former Israeli government and the PLO. Perhaps the first of these ominous signs is the recent Israeli decision to ban official diplomats from visiting Orient House. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Lauds Statement by Industrialized Nations

TA0107165496 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 30 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by 'Adil Abu-Na'mah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jericho — Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, described yesterday the summit statement of the seven great economic powers as positive, especially in terms of the need to resume the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and their affirmation of the land-for-peace principle.

He explained that the summit's resolutions reflect the sincere international desire for the continuation of the peace process. He noted the need to establish appropriate mechanisms for implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

'Urayqat said that the Israeli Government is facing a big international test that does not allow it to continue procrastinating in implementing the agreed-upon peace commitments.

He stressed that the closure and siege imposed on the Palestinian people is unjustified. He called for reexamining the agreements on international crossings.

On Netanyahu's statements and his noes about Jerusalem, 'Urayqat said that they constitute a direct threat to the peace process. He noted that Israel cannot just keep talking about peace.

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Algeria

Algeria: Islamist Official Condemns Attack on Imam

LD0107141096 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabah Kebir, the representative abroad of the outlawed FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], has condemned the attack carried out in Algiers yesterday against the leading Muslim figure, Imam Ahmed Sahnoun.

The imam was conducting dawn prayers at el-Arkam Mosque on the heights above Algiers when two unknown men described by the authorities as armed terrorists attempted to kill him. He was immediately taken to hospital. He is in a stable condition.

Algeria: President Announces Multilateral Talks To Start 15 Jul

LD0107135496 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 01 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The resumption of talks at multilateral meetings tops today's news. A statement by the Presidency of the Republic today announced that multilateral meetings with the partners of the national dialogue would start on Monday 15 July. The statement added that Mr. Liamine Zeroual, the president of the republic, today sent an invitation to the leaders of political parties, organizations, and national associations, to participate in the multilateral talks, thereby resuming the national dialogue and going deeper into issues concerning the future of the nation.

The same source said that the Presidency was sending these invitations after receiving replies to the Zeroual's memorandum and that this reflected a firm desire to promote national dialogue. It said that with this invitation, the president of the republic stressed his conviction and hope that the nation's higher interests would lead all the partners of the dialogue towards what the nation required and what the people were expecting.

Finally, the same source said that the president of the republic sent a thank-you letter to the national figures who had taken part in the previous bilateral talks.

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS2806143096 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 25 Jun 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe"; all names and quotation marks as received — received via Internet 28 Jun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Editorial:

Where does each one stands in the ongoing struggle?!

A famous psychological experiment has shown the variety of reactions to expect from different people when confronted in a situation where "force" goes on committing violent "injustice".

The set up of the experiment is such that the subject does not know that he is the central part of it. He is put behind a widow glass and given the control of an electrical apparatus which is supposed to give an ever increasing dose of electrical discharge to a victim presented to him as guilty of not having "learned a set of words". The acting victim is a part of the experimental set up and only the "punishment giver" is the subject. The electrical discharge the "subject" is administrating should, to his knowledge, gradually approach the number of kilovolts fatal to a human being life. The "subject" knows he will get paid (personal reward for him) at the end of the experiment not before.

A spectrum of different reactions was generated by different "subjects". The reactions varied from that of the one who not only throw the electrical apparatus in the face of the "experimenters" but started to strongly complain about the inhuman nature of the experiment, to that of those who did not show any feelings or remorse and seemed to be waiting for the reward in a complaisant relationship with the "experimenters" while increasing the voltage of the electrical discharges. In between these two reactions, there were those who after reaching a certain voltage will give up, others while increasing the "sufferance" to the "victim" who is now made guilty of not remembering his lesson, will not stop advising the later of how he should behave in order not to get hurt by the "force". Others will develop this genuine weakness to a point as to "whisper" the right answer to the victim in order for the later not to get hurt or so the "subject" may think. The electrical discharges will still go on no mater how wise the advice may be, however, the experiment does not say if the "subject" is punished or not about this kind of mild complicity in whispering the answer to the victim.

Any kind of oppressive situation can fit the above experiment set up and so does the Algerian situation.

The Algerian situation has not been fundamentally different from the above experience since the first wave of arrest, torture and mass killing of early months of 1992. The only differences would probably be that the "victim" in reality did not stay in his electrical chair waiting for the discharge but was reacting not only against the "experimenters" but also against those "subjects" whose actions belonged to that extreme part of the reaction spectrum. There is also the fact that in

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the real situation, the "experimenter" does punish any help to, or complicity with, the "victim" and for that, only active elements in the society, from politicians, to active intellectuals, to officials in the state apparatus, to active Islamic scholars and pseudo-scholars, etc..., who should picture themselves in the above experiment before the society and the "silent majority" does it for them. Another difference from the experience is that in reality there were also the role played by some marginal groups who have always existed in the Algerian scene but had to wait for this "opportunity" where the number of victims approached that of the whole population, in order to, not only help the "victim" natural reaction but more devastating for the later, try to orient and guide it. These groups went after the whole spectrum from the "subject" to the whole society inciuding the "victims" who took arms to defend themselves against the "experimenters". It is not a surprise that the extreme of these groups and those of the "experimenters" are joined together to do more damage to the "victim". The GIA [Armed Islamic Group] and the SM have ended up working for the same objective! The outrage of these groups was an opportune relieve for those who may have had a bad conscience for not having "saying a word" while the mass arrest and torture was going on while staying behind the "glass window" taking souvenir pictures with the military Generals pretending not to see the torture apparatus. Even the chief of the "puschiests" Lt-General Nezzar in his recent public declaration has said about them with contempt: "they did not dare whisper an objection before the death of Boudiaf!".

As for the FIS, politics for politics or for electoral purpose is something which it has forbidden itself from, particularly following the military coup d'Etat of January 1992. The FIS has since, put politics in the service of prevailing Justice over Injustice at a minimum cost. Searching for just solutions to prevent further bloodshed and destruction should not be confused with the "fixation" of taking part in any kind of political arrangement that does not address the question of "right" and "wrong" properly and tends to "advice" the "victim" not to "scream loudly on the torture table because this may upset the "experimenters"!"

Under the present conditions of immobilism and absence of sincere political will to end the tragedy, convincing the political class about the non-existence of any other serious alternative, is not as much of a priority as keeping alive the flame of armed resistance against the barbarity of the regime.

Who killed Kasdi Merbah: The Uzi detail?

The trial concerning the assassination of Kasdi Merbah, the president of the Algerian political party MAJD has begun last Monday in the city of Tizi Ouzzou.

Mr Kasdi Merbah was former chief of military intelligence (S.M) in the 1970s, former minister of industry, then agriculture in the 1980s before becoming prime minister in 1988 after the popular uprising of October 1988. He was dismissed by the then President and went on forming his own party the MAJD.

Mr Kasdi Merbah, his brother, bodyguard and driver died in a sophisticated ambush in August 1993 at the coastal suburb of Bordj el Bahri, some 15 miles east of Algiers.

Having conducted the secret service with a ruthless iron fist for thirteen years during the period of former president Houari Boumediene, colonel Kasdi Merbah is known to be the "man who knows too much" and was still feared for that even after he has officially quitted the army and the government. He is known to be an influential member of a powerful clan which ramifications are still active within the secret services and the army.

Just prior to his assassination Mr Merbah was seen very active amongst the Algerian opposition in exile trying to make their positions closer together for more efficiency. Many serious observers do think that was the principal motivation behind his assassination.

The military regime has arrested thirty people presented as an Islamist group responsible for the very "professional" ambush in August 1993. Few days after the ambush, the military regime media has showed the weapons used for the killing. They were Isrealian-made machine guns Uzi! These sophisticated weapons have never ever reported to be found in any Mujahedeen military operations these past five years as if they were just used for that single operation. The only "popular" weapon reported to be used by the Mujahedeen is the Russian made "Kalashnikov" which is also used by the Algerian army.

Other observers do link the above assassination with some kind of revenge to the assassination attempt against Lt-General Nezzar few weeks before thus explaining the timing of the trial with respect to the "official retirement" of the Lt-General Nezzar.

Even though a long time has passed relatively to the Algerian situation where tens of thousands have died after Mr Kasdi Merbah's death and which may render his assassination as an almost banal act comparatively, the people memory however, still remember the declaration

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of Mrs Merbah's widow during the funeral ceremony when she said to the military regime officials who were presents:" you killed my husband!".

Other observers are however trying to link the timing of the trial with the actual political unfolding in Algeria starting with the question : "why the trial in the "Kabylia capital" Tizi Ouzzou when the crime was committed in the jurisdiction of the city of Algiers?". Mr Kasdi Merbah is known to be originally from the Kabylia region.

No privatisation without the supervision of the people real representative!

The military regime in Algeria has officially launch the sell operation concerning 500 public companies. 141 companies have been put to sell last week and this include companies in the strategic sector of hydro-carbon. Even if at this stage the hydro-carbon companies concerned are just chemical factories transforming derived products, observers see in this decision a first step to the "de-nationalisation" of the whole vital sector of the oil and gas industry. The only sectors at which foreign investors seem to have their "eyes on". For the rest, it seems that the local Nomenklatura is the "taker" after it has finished fixing the sell out conditions.

The privatisation in Algeria is a necessary and unavoidable option given the state of the Algerian industry and efficiency. However, the "savage hand out" of the Algerian people collective wealth is not!

The ongoing war can not be a pretext and a cover for the Nomenklatura which has been stealing public funds for decades, to take these public companies for free. No matter how many commissions are set up with "beautiful denomination" such as "commission for privatisation" or "commission for the control of privatisation operations", as long as those commissions are not issue from the people freely chosen representatives, all those "hand out" operation may as well be considered void. As for the demagogical speech of helping the workers acquiring "their companies", the Algeria people have heard many similar "songs" since the "famous agrarian revolution" of the seventies.

Egypt

Egypt: Foreign Minister Comments on U.S., European Stances

NC0207100396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0550 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Arab and European positions support the Middle East peace process. These positions also advocate a balanced peace, Musa added. The foreign minister indicated that both the Cairo Arab summit and the Florence summit confirmed that peace cannot be achieved without the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

In statements to AL-AHRAM today, 'Amr Musa noted that anyone who thinks the peace process might be concluded without this Palestinian right will be making a major strategic mistake, not one of mere tactics, because the reaction will be very serious.

Musa also said that the United States, as one of the major industrialized states, agreed on the land-for-peace principle although this stance was not clear for several days. He added that Egypt welcomes the industrial summit statement noting that the land-for-peace principle is a wise and basic principle in the negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis.

Continuing, 'Amr Musa also said that Netanyahu now has an opportunity to retreat from his negative positions. But this opportunity has a condition, namely, that the period ahead should not be accompanied by Israeli measures on the ground that harm the Arab position, Musa said.

The foreign minister pointed out that the land-for-peace principle should also be applied to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and that we cannot relinquish it because it stipulates that land cannot be seized by means of war.

Egypt: Al-Baz on Peace, Lebanese Resistance, Ties to Sudan

NC0107131696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 1 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, expressed his belief that the region's political map indicates that things are moving toward peace and said that the new Israeli Government under Binyamin Netanyahu must get in line with the peaceful Arab policy after a period of prevarication and that the international community itself will throw its weight behind the moves toward peace.

Al-Baz did not rule out the conclusion of various agreements despite the security obstacles and the pressure exerted by the Israeli Government in the region.

In an interview with Lebanese al-Jadid [New] Television broadcast last night, Dr. al-Baz said: Though pessimism is now prevailing in the region, we can see that the future of peace will be brighter than some people expect. He added: We do not take what the Israeli Government has been offering as a final position. If Israel

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persists in its hardline position on the peace process, then it will face firm and hardline positions from the Arab side too. These hardline positions by Israel cannot be faced with flexible and moderate ones by the Arab side. The issue will ultimately be one of reciprocal treatment.

He noted that the Arab summit's message to Israel stressed that if Israel takes hardline positions and rejects withdrawal from the West Bank, the Golan, and south Lebanon, then this will result in Arab positions parallel to the Israeli ones, which will open the way to tension and violence in the region. But, he explained, the summit chose not to adopt extremist resolutions so as not to give Israeli extremism an excuse, but to give the Netanyahu government a chance to reassess its calculations.

Dr. al-Baz denied that there were any U.S. messages of pressure to Egypt and the Arab summit, either before or during it.

He praised the resolutions of the G-7 summit in Lyons, France, and said these resolutions were largely identical with the Arab summit's resolutions, especially on the issue of commitment to the peace process and the principle of land in return for peace. He added: We will deal with Israel on the basis of the Arab summit communique. There are no secret papers, only this communique.

Dr. al-Baz went on to say that the Arab summit resolutions expressed the Arabs' own will, did not reflect any foreign pressure, and did not set any preconditions for the peace negotiations, but highlighted the need to return to international resolutions, the Madrid conference, the land-for-peace principle, and security for all, not just one party.

On the importance of President Mubarak's visit to Washington next month and his meeting with President Bill Clinton, Dr. al-Baz said: President Mubarak will carry to Washington Egypt's and the Arabs' concerns over the peace process. He will also discuss the situation in the region, bilateral cooperation, and the Arab summit outcome and its consequences.

He stressed that the coming stage will witness a gradual relaxation in inter-Arab relations in a way that will enable us to expand the scope of cooperation and solidarity and solve the problems facing the Arab region.

Regarding Lebanon, Dr. al-Baz expressed his belief that the security committee for monitoring the cease-fire in south Lebanon will be formed soon, since all the international and regional parties are committed to implementing this decision. He said: Israel must withdraw immediately and unconditionally from south Lebanon in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425, even before a peace treaty is signed in the region. He added: The current situation in Lebanon is different and the terms of reference with regard to south Lebanon are different from other terms of reference. When Israel withdraws, the Lebanese Government must then commit itself fully to its pledge that security in northern Israel will not be threatened. But if Israel gives itself the right to act in Lebanon, then the retaliation will be similar. He warned Israel against committing new aggression against Lebanon. He said that any such aggression means that Israel will be making a big mistake. He noted that military action by the Lebanese resistance, either by Hizballah or others, against the occupation inside the occupied border strip is a legitimate act of resistance. But hitting civilians inside Israel is something else, he added.

Dr. al-Baz noted that Hizballah must act within the Lebanese political decision and not independently of it. He said the party should not have a different policy from the overall state policy, that the two sides' views must be identical, and that the Lebanese Government should be left to deal with the Israeli violations.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Dr. al-Baz said that President Mubarak's meeting with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir in Cairo during the Arab summit was one of open and frank talks coupled with a desire to improve bilateral relations. He added: If the Sudanese Government cooperates in stopping the tampering with Egyptian security and hands over the terrorist elements that tried to assassinate President Mubarak, then the door will be open wide to cooperation with Sudan.

Egypt: Al-Baz on Mubarak's Visit to France

NC0107161896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 1 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stressed the importance of President Husni Mubarak's current visit to France and his talks with French President Jacques Chirac. He said that this visit is part of the efforts of the two presidents to coordinate their stance and bolster the peace process in the Middle East. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Paris, Dr. al-Baz said that the Egyptian and French stances are very close. He noted that there had been contacts between France and Egypt before the latest European summit in Florence and the major industrial nations summit in Lyons. He described these contacts as very effective because they fully apprised the French side of Arab views, particularly the Arab countries' concern over the peace process, and of the moves in the

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forthcoming stage. He noted that during these contacts the two sides exchanged views regarding steps that may help advance the peace process.

Al-Baz said that Egypt pins great importance on the French stand and is satisfied with the European position. He noted that Egypt is aware that France played a basic role in crystallizing this stance, noting that there were some disparities in the views within the EU and that France was one of the most important forces contributing to the release of the statement and the passing of resolutions in the positive form they appeared.

In response to a question on the Arab stand in light of the recent Arab summit in Cairo, Dr. al-Baz pointed out that this stance will soon have a major influence. He stressed that the Arab stance is positive, flexible, and provides an opportunity to resume the negotiations and implement the agreements positively and constructively. He voiced his hope that the next stage will witness active and intensive efforts to resume the negotiations and advance the peace process. He said that the way is open for progress in the talks and Egypt supports any positive moves; and, as President Mubarak said in his speech at the Arab summit, Egypt does make not advance judgments.

On Israel's stance in light of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's intransigent statements, Dr. al-Baz said: We will not be (?scared) if Israel adopts any position. We do not consider this stance final, because Israel has international obligations that do not change with the changes in governments. He voiced his hope that the Israeli stance will take shape in a way that will enable both parties to move forward.

Egypt: Paper Reveals 'New Details' of Israel-Turkey Agreement

NC0207091196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0558 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—In today's issue AL-AHRAM reveals new details about the strategic agreement signed between Turkey and Israel two months ago allowing Israeli military planes to be present in Turkey and to carry out maneuvers in Turkish airspace.

The newspaper said that this agreement, the articles of which have been shrouded in great secrecy, allows Israeli planes to use Turkish air bases. In this regard the paper notes that eight Israeli F-16 fighter jets have arrived to be based in Konya. They will carry out four maneuvers a month and reconnaissance flights near northern Iraq and Syria. The paper adds that there is a plan to increase the number of Israeli pilots at Turkish bases.

AL-AHRAM says the strategic agreement signed between Turkey and Israel stipulates that Israel should install Israeli monitoring devices in Turkey to monitor any military movements in the region.

The paper cites, what Radio Israel reported recently, that the Israeli intelligence services intend to carry out spying and monitoring activities from Turkish territory by using Israeli technology and at a cost of up to $600 million with financial support from the United States.

The paper adds that Israel will also provide Turkey with information and pictures that the Israeli satellites and U.S. spying devices pick up to confront Kurdistan Workers Party activities in northern Iraq, while also making use of Israel's experience to confront the gangster wars the Kurdish rebels are waging.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM says that the Turkish-Israeli agreement also contains provisions for carrying out joint periodic naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean Sea the objective of which is to have naval control over the eastern Mediterranean region.

The newspaper interviewed Turkish Ambassador in Cairo Yasar Yakis, who clarified that Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan will discuss this agreement himself and will take the appropriate measures in line with Turkey's interests and its good relations with the countries of the region.

The Turkish ambassador said his country has deep-rooted historic and cultural relations with the Arab countries, as well as geographic relations, making it important for Turkey to live side by side with these countries. He pointed out that the Turkish Government cannot ignore these facts.

He said the Arab summit statement issued in Cairo recently showed moderation in asking Turkey to review its agreements with Israel. He expressed Turkey's full satisfaction with this moderate policy, which shows great understanding.

Egypt: Mubarak Condemns Dhahran Blast as 'Treacherous Act'

NC3006165596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak strongly condemned the terrorist bombing of a Saudi defense ministry building in al-Khubar on Tuesday [25 June]. He described the bombing as a treacherous act that disgraces those who committed it and planned it in an attempt to infringe on security and stability in

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Saudi Arabia. In an interview with the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ, he said that he telephoned King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, monarch of Saudi Arabia and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques; and his highness crown prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to reassure himself and learn the implications of this treacherous incident and to convey to them Egypt's solidarity with Saudi Arabia in fighting the subversive phenomenon of terrorism, which violates the noble heavenly values and the teachings of our holy religion.

President Mubarak noted that he had already warned that the phenomenon of terrorism has become an international one, is not confined to one place, and has nothing to do with religion. He said that this phenomenon requires concerted efforts by the international community to confront and eliminate it. He noted that he called for holding an international conference to combat terrorism and to establish an effective mechanism to bring about serious and integrated cooperation to destroy terrorism, besiege terrorists, deny them any safe haven, and halt their sources of funding. He stressed that the phenomenon of terrorism is a form of organized crime that must be resisted and uprooted. He stressed that the countries that shelter terrorists and grant them political asylum under various names must refrain from this because they will be exposed to the same danger sooner or later.

Egypt: Air Defense Commander on Modernization Plans

NC2906152896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Names of weapons systems as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Shahhat, Egyptian Air Defense Forces' Commander, asserted that advanced equipment and weapons have been obtained that will increase the Egyptian Air Defense Forces' abilities and efficiency in tracking small air targets at various altitudes, in all weather conditions, and around the clock; and will also resist the electronic jamming equipment on planes.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Lt. Gen. al-Shahhat said that among the most important equipment and weapons are the Chinese JY-9A radar systems, the third generation of U.S. Hawk missiles, after upgrading them at the armed forces' workshops, in addition to eastern SAM-2 and SAM-9 missiles that have been upgraded abroad.

He added that the Air Defense Forces follow a balanced policy by upgrading the weapons they have while seeking to introduce the most advanced air defense weapons. It is within this framework that contracts have been concluded to buy Russian B-18 and B-14 long-range radar systems. He noted that contracts are expected to be concluded to get advanced U.S. Hawk missiles, bi-dimensional and tri-dimensional U.S. radar equipment, and U.S. heat-seeking missiles, in addition to the recent deal on the Sharak and Amon air defense systems.

The Air Defense Forces commander stressed that the forces' equipment and weapons are being upgraded with Egyptian expertise or in cooperation with friendly countries. In this respect, the SAM-7 missiles, Hawk's Eye, have been upgraded with the help of the Egyptian War Production Ministry, the Hawk systems upgraded in cooperation with the U.S. side, and the SAM-6 system with the Russian side.

He said that the forces' own upgrading includes equipping the current air defense systems with anti-ECM capabilities, enabling them to operate in all weather conditions, modifying and replacing some components so that they can operate modern and advanced technology, and adding digital computers to them. He added: In this respect, the SAM-6 system has been redeveloped by adding television cameras and upgrading the missiles and equipment so as to augment their combat capabilities, including to engage armed helicopters and remote targets, and to increase the system's ability to overcome the enemy's ECM. He said that the French Crotale system has also been upgraded by adding data transfer systems and developing the tracking station so as to reduce the time needed for preparing for engagement.

Lt. Gen. al-Shahhat went on to say that the U.S. Sharak system has been upgraded by adding radar for pinpointing targets for launching pads and a land-based navigation system, by providing the system with high- and low-frequency signals equipment [ajhizah ishariyah dhat qafz taraddudi], and by also adding a radar data receiver unit at the launching pad and equipment for resisting thermal interference.

He added that the al-Dab' al-Aswad [Black Hyena] missile system has also been upgraded by increasing its range for detection and possible engagement of targets through thermal interference. The Shilka and 23-mm artillery have also been upgraded to engage modern air attack weapons and related air attack tactics and systems.

In reply to a question on the possibility of the Air Defense Forces' abandoning the old-generation missiles, such as the SAMs, and replacing them with more modern ones, Lt. Gen. al-Shahhat said: The Air Defense Forces rely to a large degree on arms from the Eastern

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bloc, including the SAM missile systems. Hence, they cannot be abandoned overnight. But most of these systems are being upgraded and modified to enable them to confront modern attack weapons. Old systems are being gradually replaced by modern ones, in accordance with a prepared armament plan.

Asked when the third and fourth phases of the command and control system will be completed and what this date signifies for the Egyptian Air Defense Forces, Lt. Gen. al-Shahhat noted that the automatic command and control system provides radical and sound remedies for the problems facing air defense in a way that makes it possible to control the country's air space and provide a prompt and integrated view of the aerial situation.

He continued: For this reason an automatic command and control system was devised for the northern, eastern, and central sectors. It was completed in 1994 and represented a real enhancement of our air defense capabilities. However, practical combat feedback has not been completed yet. Hence we have decided to complete the second and third phases of the automatic command and control system in the southern and western sectors in accordance with an integrated plan involving the use of very sophisticated technology so that this automatic command and control system will be the most modern ever.

He pointed out that this will provide all military commanders with a complete view of the country's air situation and allow them to make the appropriate decisions promptly.

He declared that the Egyptian command and control system is unparalleled anywhere in the world because it is 100 percent the product of Egyptian minds.

Asked if the Air Defense Forces are thinking of buying sophisticated U.S. Patriot missiles, the air defense commander said that one of the main objectives of the Air Defense Forces is to boost their capability with the most sophisticated missile systems so they will be able to confront modern airborne assault weapons systems, particularly ballistic missiles. Based on this attitude, the Air Defense Forces analyzed the results of the Gulf war, particularly the ability of defensive missiles to counter ballistic missiles. Plans were then made to obtain these systems or similar systems from other countries.

Asked if there is a plan to build an Egyptian antimissile missile system, especially as several other regional countries now possess surface-to-surface missiles, Lt. Gen. al-Shahhat replied: The threat of surface-to-surface missiles lies not only in their military effect but also in the way they can influence a country's policies and morale. This is why we are seeking to obtain a system of defense against such missiles.

Noting that the Air Defense Forces have prepared plans and programs in this respect, he said: We are moving along two parallel tracks. The first is to use systems already in service after upgrading them. The aim is to build a warning system against attacking missiles and provide a way to engage and destroy them before they reach their targets. The second is to discuss the possibility of contracting to purchase the best possible systems, such as upgraded Patriot missiles or some other systems able to deal with surface-to-surface missiles.

Asked if the Air Defense Forces' target range has successfully attracted many countries to use it to practice on, Lt. Gen al-Shahhat said: It is well known that live target practice represents the highest form of combat training. When such practice has positive results, it gives one confidence in the weapons in question, the personnel using them, and is considered the crowning achievement of long training and a real sign that this training has been well planned and implemented.

He added: Based on this fact and in light of the significant upgrading of the Egyptian air defense system, the target range has been developed into a remarkable center based on sophisticated technology where computers control target practice and assess its results.

It should be noted that this center's significant capabilities qualify it as the largest surface-to-air missile target range in the region. There are no other comparable target ranges in the Middle East. This is why we want to rent it out for practice on the international level in order to get the greatest possible benefit from it.

Lt. Gen. al-Shahhat said that numerous delegations from friendly countries have visited this center, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, South Korea, China, Italy, Russia, and the Ukraine.

Sudan

Sudan: Al-Bashir on Summit, Relations With Egypt, South

NC0107173396 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jun 96 p 3

[Interview with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir by Tal'at Rumayh in Cairo on 23 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rumayh] Mr. President, how do you assess the outcome of the summit that just ended?

[Al-Bashir] First, the mere holding of the summit was notable in the current conditions. God willing, it

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will be the start of the restoration of Arab relations, awareness, and unity and the end of divisions and fragmentation that have cost the Arabs much. We believe that this summit will halt the deterioration in Arab-Arab relations, which many forces have tried to exploit for many reasons. This was mostly manifested in our fundamental issue, the Palestinian issue. The absence of unity in the Arab ranks allowed the enemy to achieve a lot. Many ambitious parties, some of them from the Arab world, are trying to exploit the current situation to achieve many objectives.

[Rumayh] You met with President Mubarak this morning. What issues were discussed at that meeting?

[Al-Bashir] We feel the meeting was positive and the talks were frank. We agreed to turn a new page in our relations. We also agreed to let officials at all levels from both countries deal with all the problems related to our joint relations and also all pending problems, particularly the security problems which the brothers in Egypt have complained about a lot. We agreed to start with the security issue and we will also tackle some of the minor issues that have resulted from the tension.

[Rumayh] What do you mean by the security issue?

[Al-Bashir] Certainly the presence of Islamic groups in Sudan. We confirmed that there are no such elements in Sudan. We are ready to cooperate in this respect if there is information that such elements are inside Sudan. We assert that there are no such elements in Sudan. But to assure the brothers in Egypt that there is no security threat from the Sudan, we asked that the two countries' security services exchange information and cooperate.

[Rumayh] But many problems have been caused by this tension. Did you and President Mubarak discuss ways of resolving them?

[Al-Bashir] Another positive development at this meeting was that we agreed that all the issues stemming from the tension — navigation between the two countries, the border problems, the irrigation buildings, and so on — will be solved within the context of finding solutions to all pending problems.

[Rumayh] How do you assess the Egyptian stand in the Security Council on the issue of imposing sanctions on Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] We believe that Egypt's stand was positive when the resolution was raised in the Security Council. Despite tension in bilateral relations; the incitement by the local, regional, and international media; and despite other parties' attempts and heavy pressures to impose harsh sanctions on Sudan, the Egyptian stand was positive. They refused to be pushed into backing the call to tighten the sanctions on Sudan and impose economic or military sanctions. In view of these developments, we expect Egypt's stand to be still more positive, God willing.

[Rumayh] Mr. President, there was much talk recently in Sudan about the peace charter in the south. Are there contacts with John Garang to join the current efforts?

[Al-Bashir] There are many forces in south Sudan beside Garang. These include forces not in agreement with him, and we are holding contacts with them. We have made many attempts to negotiate with Garang about restoring peace because we regard the Garang group as a major one, but not an easy one to deal with. It enjoys very wide international recognition and support and has much influence on security developments in the south. Our current efforts are being made through the IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority for Drought and Development] countries to hold negotiations in order to promote the peace process.

[Rumayh] Mr. President, the issue of a referendum in the south has caused deep concern about Sudan's unity. What do you mean by holding this referendum?

[Al-Bashir] We announced the holding of a referendum at the end of the transitional period. Its aim is to deepen unity, though others talk about a self-determination referendum. But this is something that has to be decided by agreement. We declared what was agreed on (it was a mere declaration and not an agreement). The agreement will initiate the transitional period, the security measures, and what will be done at the end of the transitional period.

[Rumayh] There were also announcements about dialogues with the Sudanese opposition forces. Where have these efforts reached?

[Al-Bashir] We have followed a policy of dialogue from the beginning. The unique trait of the Salvation [ruling front] is that we are advocates of dialogues. We continued to hold meetings on all of Sudan's problems. This is our policy; and dialogue is our policy. It meant holding dialogues with all sides immediately after the elections. The elections had a positive outcome that confirmed that the Sudanese people were rallying behind the Salvation Revolution considering that the turnout reached 72 percent, something that had never happened before in the history of Sudan's elections. The number who voted was 5.8 million, compared to 3 million at the last elections. This showed that the people support the Salvation Front's program and policy. Since we do not seek power and do not want to monopolize it, we began an expanded meeting after the elections with all the former political forces in order to explore their views of

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the past and the future too. Our view was that if we agree on the course accepted by the Sudanese people then we can raise participation and other issues but we will not raise the issue of participation without an agreement on a common view. We do not want a government with different views or lacking harmony, as was the case with the former coalition governments we experienced under the former partisan regimes. That was a time when we had governments lacking harmony from within and bearing the seeds of their own destruction. That is why they collapsed so quickly. We do not want to repeat that experience but want agreement on the course to be followed and on a program.

[Rumayh] Your meeting with al-Sadiq al- Mahdi was perhaps the most important aspect of this dialogue. What was the result of this dialogue?

[Al-Bashir] We found ourselves agreeing on some topics and disagreeing on others. Therefore, we agreed to continue the dialogue and our the contacts on all levels.

[Rumayh] Sudanese opposition forces have submitted a memorandum. You have commented on the memorandum, saying that it does not mean anything. What do you mean by this?

[Al-Bashir] Truly, it does not mean anything. As I have said, the Sudanese people have already expressed their opinion. The leaders of the disbanded parties called on the Sudanese people to boycott the elections. Nevertheless, there was a big turnout at the polls. This was the people's decisive reply to them.

They now claim that they will escalate, because of high prices, especially fuel prices. We realize that high prices are undesirable and unpopular. We know this. When they felt that there was some resentment in the street over high prices, they imagined that the climate was appropriate for them to act and instigate the man in the street. But we were right. We can explain facts to the Sudanese people. We have not given the Sudanese people false hopes. We have always acquainted them with facts and the consequences of all steps taken. The Sudanese people are vigilant, patient, and responsive. They push their sons to fight and die as martyrs for Sudan's sake. Whoever does this does not agitate because the prices of some commodities have increased.

[Rumayh] Mr. President, can you say something on the occasion of your presence in Egypt after a period of tension in relations?

[Al-Bashir] First of all, I am happy to be in Egypt. I have an emotional attachment to Egypt. Throughout the recent past when relations were tense, we did not have contacts with Egypt. We are happy with this summit, which has enabled us to visit Egypt and to explain our stand at a direct meeting with brother President Husni Mubarak. We have agreed to open a new chapter in relations. We believe that relations between Egypt and Sudan are important. They are considered the barometer of Arab relations. If Egyptian- Sudanese relations develop positively, the other Arab relations will develop positively. On this premise and adhering to our responsibility, we will work hard, God willing, to develop these relations, not only to restore them to what they were in the past, but also to advance them to wider areas than they were before the tension.

Sudan: Sudanese Official on Relations With Egypt, Other Countries

NC0207114696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 2 Jul (MENA)— 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shiddu, deputy speaker of the National Assembly — the equivalent of the Sudanese Parliament — and a former minister of justice, has asserted that Sudan's conflict with Egypt is not political. He expressed his belief that the conflict is a security conflict, because Egypt believes Sudan's practices constitute a security threat to it.

In a lengthy interview with the nongovernmental newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM, the first part of which was published today, Shiddu said President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Sudanese President 'Umar al- Bashir was a good opportunity to show good intentions toward Cairo and is considered the first step toward removing the blemishes that have marred bilateral relations.

The former Sudanese justice minister admitted that until last April his country's borders were open as a result of past policies and many fighters entered Sudan this way. He noted that this door is currently closed and these elements have been removed from Sudanese territory so as to realize Sudanese interests.

He pointed out that the natural thing is for Sudan to have goodneighborly relations, which would set its neighbors' minds at ease that Sudan does not sponsor terrorism or shelter terrorists. Thus we would guarantee stable relations with countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Shiddu added that he believes security cooperation between Egypt and Sudan has covered all the issues. He also expressed his belief that Sudan should consider that it is not in its interest to cooperate or deal with sides or individuals who threaten the security of its neighbors.

The deputy speaker of the Sudanese Parliament expressed his belief that with the elimination of factors

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of tension between Egypt and Sudan, Sudan's relations with other countries would automatically improve, because the deterioration of relations with Cairo has constituted a major factor in what Sudan is being subjected to from abroad. Egypt believes Sudan constitutes a danger to its security and this reflects on Sudan's relations with other countries, particularly with the United States.

Shiddu also expressed his belief that the Security Council will consider the positive steps by Sudan when it reviews Resolution 1054.

Sudan: SSIM Claims Victory Over SPLA in 2 Border Towns

AB3006203296 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Jun 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM] is claiming a big success this weekend over John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels, capturing two towns on the Ethiopian border. According to SSIM, (Nyandit) and Akobo fell on Thursday [27 June] and Friday of last week even though at the same time, they alleged that the SPLA are getting help from outside Sudan. SSIM's leader, Riak Machar, recently signed the Sudan Government's political charter for the south and is now based in Khartoum. On the line to Nairobi, Barnaby Philips asked SSIM spokesman, David de Chand, if the clashes had involved heavy fighting.

[Begin recording] [de Chand] Yes, there has been heavy fighting, but we have overcome it. Akobo is now under our control and (Nyandit). That means now that the (Byistit) area, that is, the Central Upper Nile area is clear.

[Philips] And heavy casualties on both sides?

[De Chand] Of course, one would expect that. Yes, there are casualties, and I think that's one of the reasons why the SPLA in Akobo ran across to Ethiopia and sought refuge in the Ethiopian garrison there at (Tiergor), and I think on the 28th [of June], we received 60 officers, NCO's, and men from the SPLA who had surrendered themselves to the SSIA [South Sudan Independence Army] forces in Akobo and on 28 June, we received another 40 SPLA forces who had also surrendered to us coming from the EPRDF [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front] garrison at (Tiergor) on the other side of Akobo.

[Philips] Now, the prisoners who you've captured, what are you going to do with them?

[De Chand] We are not going to harm them at all. We are going to rehabilitate them.

[Philips] You won't hand them over to the Khartoum government who you're more friendly with?

[De Chand] No, no, no, no. No, we are not going to do that. We are not going to do that although we are not very friendly with Khartoum only that we signed a charter. That doesn't mean that we are being friendly. It means that we are seeking ways and means of resolving the conflict through peaceful and political means.

[Philips] Did Khartoum encourage or assist you in any way in this latest victory?

[De Chand] No, no, no, not all. We have a very large army and therefore there is no need for us to need Khartoum. We can do it ourselves. The only thing now that shocked us is that in the area, we have come to learn now that the SPLA was not attacking us alone. The SPLA combined with Ethiopians and Eritreans have really played a very significant role in this game. So, we are wondering why the Eritreans and the Ethiopians are doing this.

[Philips] So, are you saying that there were Ethiopian and Eritrean forces on the ground in Sudan around Akobo?

[De Chand] Not only around Akobo, from Khawr Yabus up to (?Fagagh) up to Pochala, all those victories the SPLA claimed in Khawr Yabus and Pochala two months back were all victories made by the Ethiopian forces. The SPLA does not have sufficient forces in those areas.

[Philips] And will you go into Ethiopia to pursue these people?

[De Chand] No, no. No, we have no intention at all. That would be an interference and that would be a violation of international law. However, if the Ethiopians are going to harbor the SPLA to continuously attack us, we will fight back and if they want a showdown, we might possibly do it. We've got that ability to do it.

[Philips] Now, what about the civilians in Akobo because I understand that aid agencies have now withdrawn? Presumably, they are suffering as a result of the fighting.

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[De Chand] Yes, they have been suffering as a result of the fighting because of John Luk and John Garang. They are fully responsible for this. Now, the security situation has normalized, so we would urge all the international NGO's [nongovernmental organizations] and the UN [word indistinct] to resume their services as they were prior to the disruption by the invasion forces of the SPLA.

[Philips] But, I mean you can't exempt yourself from all the responsibility because after all, you successfully attacked the town.

[De Chand] Well, the town is ours. We want to take it. They have no business to be there. The SPLA has been the one attacking us. We are just regaining what is ours. [end recording]

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Bahrain

Bahrain: Minister Welcomes Syrian Mediation, Urges Iran To Respond

JN0207110196 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 2 Jul (WAKH)—Bahrain repeated its call for Iran not to interfere in its internal affairs. At the same time, it welcomed Syria's efforts to make Tehran review its policy. In statements published in Bahraini newspapers today, Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', minister of cabinet affairs and information, said: Iran is interfering in our affairs. Once it stops interfering, there will be no differences that need mediation. The Bahraini minister said: Syria's efforts to convince Iran not to interfere in our internal affairs and to review its policy in this regard are appreciated. We value Syria efforts and wish it success. We also hope that Iran will respond to these efforts.

Informed sources told AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ that there has been no mediation between Bahrain and Iran because there are no differences between the two countries that require mediation. Iran, however, is interfering in Bahrain's internal affairs and wants to undermine its security and stability. Whenever Iran stops interfering, the problem will end. The sources added that Syria is trying to convince Iran to stop interfering in Bahrain's affairs and to review its policy toward the Gulf states.

Bahrain: Court Issues Sentences Against Restaurant Arsonists

JN0207103896 (Internet) Al-Ayyam WWW in Arabic 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The State Security Court yesterday passed sentences in a case of premeditated murder associated with the crime of arson at al-Zaytunah Restaurant in the Sitrah region. Seven Asians were killed in the incident. The court passed death sentences punishment against the first defendant, 'Ali Ahmad 'Abdallah al-'Asfur, 31, an Agriculture Ministry employee; the second defendant, Yusuf Husayn 'Abd-al-Baqi, 31, a teacher; and the third defendant, Ahmad Khalil Ibrahim Hubayl al-Kattab, 30, an employee at the Aluminum Bahrain Company (ALBA). The court also passed a life sentences against the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh defendants: Khalil Ibrahim 'Abdallah Khamis, 21; Qambar Khamis 'Ali Qambar, 23; 'Abdallah Ibrahim 'Abdallah Khamis, 27, who are all laborers; and Muhammad Rida Ya'qub Yusuf al-'Attar, 23, a fisherman. The court sentenced the eighth defendant, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn 'Abd-al-Baqi, 18, a student, to 15 years in prison. [passage omitted]

Bahrain: Opposition Statement Denounces Sentences, Blames Authority

NC0207102196 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, July 2 (AFP)—The exiled Bahraini opposition on Tuesday [2 July] denounced death sentences imposed on three Shiite Muslims, and blamed Manama authorities for a firebomb attack on a restaurant which killed seven Bangladeshis.

In a statement sent to AFP the Bahrain Freedom Movement said defence lawyers had "gathered evidence from dozens of witnesses proving that" the men could not have carried out the attack.

Bahrain's state security court on Monday also jailed four other defendants and a fifth for 15 years for the attack in the Shiite suburb of Sitrah south of Manama in March.

But the movement said the "fire in the restaurant was set by the authorities to spread panic among the citizens and dissuade them from claiming political reforms."

"More than 50" witnesses testified to the court that the defendants "were not at the scene at the time of the incident. The street, where the restaurant was, was under strict surveillance by anti-riot police at the time," the statement added, quoting unidentified witnesses.

"The size of the incident which was shown on Bahraini television did not correspond to the state of the victims whose bodies showed no signs of burns and whose clothes were intact."

Defence lawyers questions to the court about why the seven dead had been in the restaurant at 5:00 a.m. when they lived in different parts of the country had also gone unanswered, it added.

Bahrain has been rocked since December 1994 by anti-government unrest led by Shiite Muslims demanding the restoration of parliament dissolved in 1975. At least 22 people have died in the violence.

Bahrain: Diplomatic Relations Established With Belarus

JN0107084896 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 1 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain and the Republic of Belarus agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Kuwait: Rolf Ekeus Says Iraq Still Possesses Long-Range Missiles

LD0107190296 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 1 Jul (KUNA) — Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Commission To Oversee the Destruction of Iraq's Weapons [title as received], said here today that Iraq still possessed long-range missiles capable of carrying chemical and biological warheads. He added that their number probably ranged between six and 16 missiles.

Ekeus told a news conference he believed that "Iraq does not possess atomic weapons at present, because the uranimum it had acquired was taken out of Iraq and is no longer in its possession."

Ekeus pointed out that the team of UN inspectors "has not made any calculations in order to work out the exact number of Iraqi missiles left." He added that this aspect "remains totally unclear."

During his fifth visit to Kuwait, which began last Saturday [29 June] and will end early tomorrow morning, Ekeus said that Iraq was claiming it had already destroyed those missiles, but it could not prove this.

He added: "Iraq claims, and I underline this word, that it destroyed those missiles in 1991, but it has not produced any proof or the tiniest shred of evidence that it had done so."

Ekeus reiterated the conviction of the UN special commission, which he heads, about this issue and said: "Thus we affirm that Iraq is still hiding biological and chemical weapons and also information and documents about them and components used in their manufacture."

Asked about the approach the inspection experts will adopt if Iraq continued its lies and deception concerning its mass destruction weapons, Ekeus stressed that "Iraq should cooperate in the required manner and should realize that we will not back off or be lax and will intensify our task and will continue to do it." He pointed out that the international commission for the removal of Iraq's weapons, as an international body, receives constant support from the United Nations and the Security Council which "maintained its unity when necessary".

The Swedish diplomat reminded the authorities in Baghdad of "the Security Council's message it sent last June when it passed its Resolution 1060 denouncing Iraq's obstructions of the inspection team's efforts and demanding Iraq to give them access to inspect the sites which they chose."

This resolution, which was accompanied by a military threat to stop the escalation, forced Iraq to accept an agreement signed by Ekeus last week in Baghdad on behalf of the Security Council.

Ekeus believed that the only way to finish this file would be "either Iraq provide the documents and evidence on its destruction of its weapons or hand over what we ask for, and then we will do the job." "There will be no problem for us," he added.

At the end of his news conference, the UN official hailed his meeting with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah.

Replying to a question by KUNA whether he had asked for financial support during his visit, he said: "His highness the amir and his highness the heir apparent have confirmed their full backing."

Kuwait: Ekeus Sets Conditions for Lifting Iraqi Embargo

NC0107190496 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on Iraq's disarmament, has stated that Baghdad still has some long-range missiles. He said that the Iraqi nuclear program no longer exists. This topic was a subject of discussion between Kuwaiti Amir Shayh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Rolf Ekeus. Our correspondent in Kuwait Sulayman al-'As'usi reports:

[Al-'As'usi] As part of his shuttle in the region and the fifth visit to Kuwait, and as part of his continuing consultations with Kuwaiti leaders, Rolf Ekeus met Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, and a number of Kuwaiti officials. During the meetings, they discussed the latest developments regarding the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

In an exclusive statement to the MBC on the significance of the remaining chemical and biological weapons in Iraq and the danger they pose to the region, Ekeus said: I don't think so. I feel that we have now destroyed the largest Iraqi military establishment for the manufacture of these weapons in May and June. I hope that we will be able to destroy what remains of these weapons in the near future. The presence of the UN inspectors in Iraq and their constant observation of the Iraqi military posts make it difficult for Iraq to pose any danger to the region. He said that the message he wants to address to the Iraqi Government to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and the task of the UN Commission

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in Iraq is that they must immediately stop hiding military information and documents relating to weapons of mass destruction. They must hand them over to the UN inspectors immediately. Once they hand them over, we will submit a report to the UN Security Council to end this suffering. This is the easiest and quickest way.

Iraq is expected to provide the UN Commission with all the wanted information on its weapons program by the end of June. The UN Commission will assess and verify the information and prepare a final report.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Speculation Over King's Health Grows

MS0107110396 London THE TIMES in English 1 Jul 96 p 15

[Report by Tunku Varadarajan: "King Fahd 'Poised to Abdicate'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid — Speculation is mounting in Spain that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia may shortly renounce his throne and retire to the Costa del Sol.

Since suffering a stroke last November, the 75-year-old King has been unable to walk more than a few steps at a time and is largely confined to bed. Most state business is now conducted by Crown Prince 'Abdallah, his half-brother. The recent terrorist attack in Dhaharan has highlighted the king's fragility and it appears he is now inclined to see out the rest of his life ubdisturbed.

His Mar-Mar Palace, built in 1976, is a replica of the White House in Washington. A surge of activity has been reported there recently.

Saudi Arabia: Threats Against Civilian Targets Reported

JN0207081196 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A number of Saudi officials received threatening letters late last week according to the U.S. television network ABC, which cited sources close to the intelligence agencies. It said that the letters reached the private secretary of King Fahd, the head of the intelligence agencies, and Interior Minister Prince Nayif. The letters threatened civilian targets unless a number of Saudi religious leaders were released, along with 200 Saudis who were jailed for participating in a demonstration in 1994, the U.S. network said.

The threats come less than one week after 19 Americans were killed in the bombing in Dhahran on 25 June. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Islamic Affairs Minister Condemns al-Khubar Blast

LD2806150196 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Jun 27 (SPA) — Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance Dr Abdallah al-Turki has condemned the blast which claimed the lives of many innocent people in al-khubar on Tuesday evening [25 June].

He described it as a heinous crime alien to the religious and social values of our Muslim society. He praised the efforts of security officials and stressed that this horrific crime represents only a desparate attempt to undermine the solid security situation in Saudi Arabia.

He also denounced vicious attacks launched by the enemies of Islam against Saudi Arabia and stressed that the kingdom's strength and stability does not please the enemies, envious parties or those who deviate from the path of right.

He expressed confidence that God will disappoint them and upset their schemes against this country and her people.

Saudi Arabia: 'Reformist Movement' Appeals to Lyon Summit Participants

MM0207102696 London AL-ISLAH in Arabic 1 Jul 96 p 3

[From bulletin No. 16 issued by the Islamic Reform Movement of Saudi Arabia; received by fax 2 July: "Full Text of Statement Distributed by Reformist Movement [al-harakah al-islahiyah] on Recent Incident; Reformist Movement Comprises Intellectuals, Thinkers, and Ulema in Kingdom; It Has Good Contacts With Islamic Reform Movement; Statement From Reformist Movement in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Industrial States Summit in Lyon, France"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellencies, heads of the delegations meeting in Lyon,

You will discuss at your summit an item submitted by the United States, focusing mainly on the blast that occurred at a U.S. military base in the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia]. We would like here to indicate the major points representing our view on the incident. This is the view of those concerned with the matter — the Kingdom's helpless people, who do not have even the minimum freedom to express their opinion without threat to their lives or livelihood. Thus we would like to explain to Your Excellencies the following important points in this connection:

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First, the United States tried through its President to evade the real causes of the incident by associating it with a series of violent incidents in the region or linking it to a quarter that differs ideologically from the overwhelming majority of the people in the Kingdom, with a view to misleading the summit, the organs of the states concerned, and public opinion in the United States, which must know why he is sending its sons to support one of the most repressive and dictatorial regimes.

Second, the United States has been responsible since the fifties for turning the Kingdom's people into a milk cow for the U.S. herdsman, in cooperation with a regime that has plundered the state's capabilities and deprived the people of their political and economic rights. The United States has supported this regime materially and morally for the sake of suppressing this people and ensuring the flow of its own economic interests at the expense of the people's natural right to run and distribute their wealth.

Third, the U.S. presence in the Kingdom is not based on a balanced agreement between the two states to train their armed forces. It is a presence involving absolute freedom under which the Kingdom has become an open military arena for U.S. forces. And the state has been turned into a U.S. company for the U.S. national economy — which conflicts blatantly with the peoples' most basic rights to independent states and sovereign homelands.

Fourth, a reformist movement was set up in the Kingdom after the Gulf war to reveal the huge defects and the mythical corruption in the state; it was led by ulema, academicians, economists, and researchers, and it was supported by all groups of the people.

This movement used the minimum peaceful means to express its views, such as articles and free speech, yet it was subjected at the hands of the regime to the most severe extremism and repression, which reflects to Your Excellencies the real situation in the Kingdom. Most of those who expressed their views were arrested and many were dismissed from their jobs before any violent incident took place in the Kingdom. One of them was executed, and boys 17 and 20 years old were sentenced to 12 years in prison for turning the light off during a political lecture attacking the ulema in their area.

The United States supported the government materially and morally to suppress this peaceful movement and thus the people saw it a sponsor of this government and indeed of the most foolish and extremist party in it.

Your Excellencies, members of the summit: The U.S. President should have reexamined the file of Saudi-U.S. relations in order to spare the region and his soldiers the specter of entering the cycle of violence. But his statements on the incident have embodied arrogance toward the people, especially when he started to threaten war against the Kingdom's people if a single U.S. soldier is killed, paying no attention to 12 million people. And he has started to warn of the war of cultures espoused by his thinkers in a campaign against Islam whose battlefield is the Kingdom.

While the Reformist Movement has adopted armed struggle as an option, others started it, in response to the regime's bloody actions. We stress to all that true Islam is not only the strategic option of our people, but also life in every sense of the word. We will never abandon this option. But we are adopting real and civilized dialogue and clarifying to you a view that has been concealed from you, so that nations will agree on just and balanced interests for everyone.

[Signed] The Reformist Movement Executive Bureau, Riyadh, 26 June 1996.

Saudi Arabia: Envoy Criticizes Foreign Media Treatment of al-Khubar Blast

LD0107222496 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2126 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bonn, 1 Jul (SPA) — 'Abbas Fa'iq Ghazzawi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Germany, has expressed his gratitude to and appreciation of German Government officials and the friendly German people, who expressed their solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia following the terrorist incident that took place in the town of al-Khubar.

At a news conference in Bonn today, he said: "As an inseparable part of the world, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not immune from terrorism and crime, but it is proud to be a state that was established on the principles of the true Islamic religion."

He added that these principles had given the kingdom a prominent place among the world's states and provided it with stability and gained it the friendship and respect of other states.

Ambassador Ghazzawi criticized some international media outlets for making the criminal explosion into an occasion for attacking the kingdom in an unreasonable and unfair way. He stressed that terrorism existed everywhere in the world, but these media outlets applied double standards. If terrorism had taken place in one of the superpower states, it would have been regarded as an

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individual act, while in one of our countries it would be regarded as an expression of a cause and an indication of the instability of the regime there, according to them. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, Ambassador Ghazzawi said: "Investigation into the al-Khubar explosion is continuing day and night in order to capture the criminals. The results will be announced in due course."

In reply to another question, he said there were no foreign military bases in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that all the servicemen deployed there were there in implementation of UN resolutions and [were deployed] in Saudi military bases.

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Israel: Netanyahu's Bureau Denies Visit to Jordan Canceled

TA0107182696 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu decided to postpone his visit to Jordan in the wake of a Jordanian message that such a meeting prior to Netanyahu's visit to the United States and Egypt would embarrass them. Foreign Ministry experts recommended that Foreign Minister David Levi travel to Cairo in the coming days to clear the air between the two states. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin Rosen recording] Netanyahu's first official visit abroad as prime minister was supposed to have been to Jordan. The prime minister's bureau had planned for the visit to take place this week, before Netanyahu's trip to Washington, and no less important, before he visits President Mubarak in Cairo. However, the idea of a meeting with King Husayn first was received very coolly in Jordan. Foreign Ministry experts were the first to recommend to the prime minister not to go to Amman first so as not to embarrass King Husayn. That recommendation followed a telephone conversation between Netanyahu and the Jordanian prime minister the day after the Cairo Arab summit meeting. In the conversation, the Jordanian prime minister said: We do not want exaggerated hugs; they will harm us.

Jerusalem is very angry with Egypt for not preventing extremist resolutions at the Cairo summit, but the Foreign Ministry believes that relations with Cairo should not be overstrained. King Husayn will therefore not be given the opportunity to host Netanyahu's first visit abroad, while David Levi will probably be traveling to Cairo within the next few days. [end recording]

In response to the above report, the prime minister's bureau said that since no date had been set for a visit to Jordan, it could not have been canceled.

Israel: Jordanian Envoy Denies Seeking Distance From Government

TA0207101796 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jul 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is considering visiting Jordan before he goes to the US next week, but is concerned that such a visit would be seen as a snub by Egypt, senior officials in Jerusalem indicated. [passage omitted]

Jordan Ambassador 'Umar al-Rifa'i said that whenever Netanyahu would like to come, "we will welcome him. It is only a matter of scheduling. If he comes in the next few days, it's fine. If he does not come until after he goes to Washington, this is also fine."

He sharply denied a report that Jordan is seeking to publicly distance itself from Israel in fear that it may be isolated among the Arabs. "Amman has a solid and open relationship with Israel," he declared. "We feel no reason to be embarrassed about this. There is no insecurity in the relationship."

Israel: Meridor, Frenkel, Olmert To Join Netanyahu on U.S. Tour

TA0107101796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet will discuss the economy again tomorrow. Before leaving for the United States, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu intends to hold yet another budget debate.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel will accompany the prime minister on his trip. Among other things, the two men will meet with potential investors. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will also join the prime minister for part of his U.S. tour.

Israel: SHAS Threatens To Leave Coalition Over Religious Ministry

TA0107164596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is threatening to leave the coalition if it is not given the Religious Affairs Ministry by the end of the week. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that SHAS' leader, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, decided to convene the movement's Council of Torah Scholars on Tuesday [2 July] to discuss the crisis over the religious affairs portfolio.

The prime minister announced last week via Avigdor Lieberman, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, that SHAS will receive the portfolio first in the rotation worked out with the NRP [National Religious Party], but following the NRP's opposition Netanyahu decided to postpone a decision.

Colleagues of Knesset Member Arye Der'i dismiss rumors that he intends to resign from the Knesset in the coming days. Our correspondent notes that Der'i recently told his aides that he wants to resign from the Knesset in order to devote himself to his trial.

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Israel: NRP Threatens To Leave Government Over SHAS' 'Ultimatum'

TA0107182296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The crisis over the Religious Affairs Ministry is worsening. NRP [National Religious Party] chairman Zvulun Hammer informed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tonight that if he yields to SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] ultimatum on the religious affairs portfolio, and transfers it to SHAS without the NRP's approval, the NRP will leave the government. Hammer said that it is neither honorable nor timely to issue threats, but if SHAS has issued an ultimatum, then the NRP is issuing a counterultimatum, our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports. [passage omitted]

Israel: SHAS Postpones Meeting on Coalition Crisis to 4 Jul

TA0207074596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The religious affairs portfolio crisis continues. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef rescheduled the meeting of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Council of Torah Scholars for 4 July after learning that the government decided to discuss the issue today. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that in an attempt to settle the issue, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef had planned to convene the council today, prior to the cabinet meeting that was to take place on 3 July. Having learned of a change in the cabinet's agenda, he decided to take advantage of the respite until the government's next meeting on 5 July.

SHAS sources told our correspondent this morning that the party's ultimatum, issued last night, stands and that it will quit the coalition by the end of the week unless it receives the religious affairs portfolio before the NRP [National Religious Party]. The NRP announced in reaction that it is presenting a no less adamant counterultimatum. NRP Knesset Member Sha'ul Yahalom told Qol Yisra'el this morning that his party will not cede the portfolio to SHAS because the NRP wants to reorganize the Religious Affairs Ministry and to determine budget distribution criteria.

Mikha'el Eytan, chairman of the coalition and of the Likud Knesset faction, said a struggle over status was one of the factors at the core of the SHAS-NRP conflict. Prime Minister Netanyahu has put the justice minister and Avigdor Lieberman in charge of the efforts to resolve the crisis.

Israel: Levi Urges Upgrading Ties to Russia

TA0107111996 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said today that Israeli-Russian relations have been lax recently, and that they should be taken up a notch. Levi made the remarks at the first executive session in the Foreign Ministry.

He added that the message Israel is sending to the world is one of peace that is not attained through coercion, and that the Foreign Ministry must be at the center of the political part of the peace process.

Israel: Labor Knesset Faction Chairman Reelected, Defeats Beilin

TA0107143296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ra'anan Kohen was reelected Labor Knesset faction chairman by 17 votes to 15 votes for Yosi Beilin, who ran against him. Two Knesset faction members abstained.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes that although the Labor faction denies that the vote was based on camp affiliations, Kohen is known as an Ehud Baraq supporter.

Israel: IDF Lifted Curfew From West Bank Town's Main Road

TA0107145496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has lifted the curfew from Biddiya's main road and is permitting the reopening of its shops. The curfew was imposed two weeks ago after a terrorist murdered police officer Me'ir Alush and wounded his wife.

On the other hand, the curfew on Sammu' in the Hebron hills, where inhabitants rioted and set on fire tractors belonging to the Jewish National Fund, was not lifted, our correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem reports.

Israel: Steps To Ease Closure Discussed; Decision Due 4 Jul

TA0207083396 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 96 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] In defense establishment discussions, which started recently and will continue in the coming days, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Shin Bet top brass have recommended that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay significantly ease the closure on

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the territories and allow Palestinian laborers to work in Israel.

The defense minister is inclined to accept the recommendation, despite the opposition of senior police officers who believe that the closure should remain tight. Before he makes a final decision on this, Mordekhay will present his stand to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and the final decision will be made on 4 July.

Central Command commander 'Uzi Dayan, Southern Command commander Shlomo Yanay, Shin Bet head 'Ami Ayalon, and Oren Shahor, coordinator of government activities in the territories, have recommended that the closure be eased. Defense sources have said that Israel can gradually allow 50,000-70,000 Palestinian laborers entry.

The laborers will receive entry permits after undergoing security checks, and permits will be given only to married people, age 25 and above, who have no security record. At present, only 25,000 Palestinians are employed in Israel as opposed to some 60,000 before the closure was imposed.

Southern Command officers were initially against easing the closure, but Major General Yanay joined his colleagues after consultations were held in the IDF. Defense sources said yesterday that "the quantity of goods the IDF currently allows into Israel from the territories is equal to the volume that existed in the past, but the main economic problem for the Palestinians has remained obtaining work permits." The Palestinian Authority has been heavily pressuring Israel to ease the closure.

The defense sources said that "a closure is a good short-term solution. In the long run, however, it creates serious problems, because a deterioration in the economic situation might be followed by an increase in the number of terror attacks and violent incidents. Allowing Palestinians to work in Israel would reduce the tension."

Yesterday, Likud Knesset Member Gid'on 'Ezra, former deputy Shin Bet head, expressed his support for easing the closure. He said that "the closure should be lifted gradually to let residents of the territories work in Israel at the expense of foreign laborers."

'Ezra, who was speaking at a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian youths in Jerusalem, added: "People want to work, and we should let them. Residents of the territories should be allowed to work in Israel in compliance with certain controls because we have to live with them in this country. Regrettably, the previous government denied them entry into Israel, primarily harming those whose work permits were issued by the Shin Bet and the police."

Israel: 'Arutz 7 News Service Interviews Netanyahu on Foreign, Domestic Issues

TA0207100896 (Internet) 'Arutz 7 News Service in English 1 Jul 96

[Interview with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by unidentified correspondent on 1 July; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 'Arutz-7: The 'Arutz-7 News Hour greets the Prime Minister — Shalom. This is the first interview with you since your election, and we wish to take this opportunity to wish you success.

Prime Minister Netanyahu: Good Afternoon, and thank you.

A7: Mr. Prime Minister, the Histadrut has initiated an hour-long "warning strike" today to signal to the government that it must not harm the workers in the framework of its anticipated budget cuts. Is there reason for concern on the part of the country's workers?

PM Netanyahu: I must say that I am very puzzled by this strike, as are, I am sure, many Histadrut members who are asking themselves, "What is the purpose of this strike?" The economy is currently on a very difficult course of, what I would call, loss of direction. Inflation is on the rise, and this hurts, first and foremost, the workers, and the lower class. Bus-fares have risen, as well as the price of bread; current mortgage rates make purchasing apartments impossible for young couples. The working class has no means by which to protect itself from these price increases and from inflation. The first part of our economic reforms will be aimed at rectifying this situation, and this will benefit the economically-weaker sectors. The second part of our economic policy will be to liberalize the economy. I must point out that the Histadrut itself was among the first to recognize the importance of this move, when it sold companies under its control; Koor, for example. This privatization of public corporations brought these companies from the verge of economic collapse and bankruptcy to recovery and a source of income for its employees. I would like to see the Histadrut fully cooperate with our economic reforms; it will only benefit its own members.

A7: Concerning your security policy, you will be embarking for your first visit as Prime Minister to the U.S. next week. Do you know whether the Americans are expecting you to continue the Oslo process in a format similar to that of the previous government, vis-a-vis Hebron, for example?

PM Netanyahu: I don't think that there is anyone in the U.S. who doesn't realize that a new government was elected, a government with a different policy. The policy

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is a different approach to achieving peace for the Jewish People. We believe that the previous government's peace policy led to a severe deterioration in the security situation and to a sharp increase in terrorist activity. We shall pursue a policy of security, which is the basis of any peace. We are ready to engage in dialogue with the Palestinians and with the Syrians; but we are not prepared to sacrifice our security interests for the sake of such negotiations. There are clear obligations to which the other side has committed itself. We expect full compliance with these obligations. We also reserve the full and indispensable right to act to protect and defend our citizens.

A7: Returning to Israel's internal affairs, are there any new developments concerning a position for Ari'el Sharon in the government?

PM Netanyahu: I personally am making efforts in this direction. I have spoken with our coalition partners, and with some of them I have made some progress, and with others I have not had success as of yet. We are definitely working on this because I think that it is of utmost importance that Ari'el Sharon be a member — an important member — of this government.

A7: Is there any truth to that which was reported yesterday concerning Minister Beni Begin's alleged intention to resign from the government, following the difference of opinion between you and him concerning the holding of discussions with 'Arafat?

PM Netanyahu: This has not come to my attention.

A7: A question regarding the media. You certainly cannot be enjoying some of the things that the media is saying and writing about you. When will the privatization of the Broadcasting Authority begin?

PM Netanyahu: It already has. The government has made the relevant decision. We do not wish to control the media, or to place there people who will always say nice things about the Prime Minister. We simply want there to be competition, including a free exchange of views, from right, left, and center. This is the atmosphere that it is necessary to have in this country, and which presently does not exist. Today, the media mainly tends to one point of view, and they have, as you said, tried to besmirch me in what I think is an unprecedented manner, but we learn to swallow everything, and to manage with it, and we'll overcome this too.

A7: Regarding the administrative detention orders, does the new government have a new policy on this issue?

PM Netanyahu: We are checking into this also. I am checking into the whole matter, from a totally objective point of view. The guiding principle here is the security standpoint. Whatever is not necessary for security, will stop, and whatever is necessary for security, will continue.

A7: Prime Minister Netanyahu, let us wish you again success.

PM Netanyahu: Thanks to you very much, thank you.

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Jordan: King Holds Telephone Conversation With Syrian President

JN0107153496 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone conversation today with his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, during which they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and the current situation in the region, particularly the peace process and its latest developments. They also discussed regional and international issues of joint interest.

Jordan: Report Says Husayn, al-Asad To Meet in Damascus

JN0207072496 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Nabil Ghazzawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation took place yesterday between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, during which they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and the current situation in the region, particularly the peace process and its latest developments. They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

AL-DUSTUR learned from government sources that a summit meeting will be held between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President al-Asad no later than this month and that the meeting will likely be held in the Syrian capital. The sources said the meeting will discuss several bilateral and regional issues of mutual concern, adding that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is likely to attend this summit.

The sources said the message King Husayn received from President al-Asad included Syrian desire to continue the meetings and contacts between Damascus and Amman with the aim of discussing current regional developments, particularly those related to the comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir on Bread Subsidy, Syria, Turkey

JN0107190996 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 1 Jul (PETRA)—Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said that the government will continue to subsidize bread, providing that this subsidy will benefit those sectors of society that deserve it, noting that world wheat prices are four times higher than local prices.

During the weekly Monday meeting at the Marriott Hotel today, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added that this subsidy will not be lifted, but that those targeted in a hurry to make a decision in this regard, noting that this decision will be based on an appropriate and clear mechanism to secure the subsidy only for those deserving it. He said: The issue was not submitted to the Council of Ministers, nether has a date been set to implement the decision which will be based on an appropriate mechanism. The government is in contact with the House of Representatives to hold the necessary consultations on this issue.

Regarding the recent military operation which targeted three Israeli soldiers, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that he has no information that Jordanian troops crossed the border within the framework of security coordination with Israel, noting that there is a security agreement with Israel within the framework of the peace treaty, that Jordanian sovereignty was not violated, and that no one will be allowed to violate it. He stressed that the investigations carried out by Jordan indicated that the operation was carried out by persons from inside the West Bank.

Responding to a question, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that Jordan's stand toward Jerusalem is firm and has not changed, that all parties agreed on the Madrid terms of reference, and that these terms of reference are still valid to resume peace negotiations.

Concerning the Jordanian-Syrian relations and the possibility that Jordan will play a role in mediating between Turkey and Syria, the information minister pointed out: No agreement was reached with the Syrian side on a certain mechanism to discuss bilateral relations and issues between the two countries; neither has a joint committee been formed in this regard. However, certainly, the two sides have a desire to resume contacts. Currently, there are moves to resume meetings between us. The meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad was positive and paved the way for settling differences between the two countries. Jordanian mediation between Syrian and Turkey was not requested.

Answering another question, al-Mu'ashshir said: The government has no intention to conduct joint Jordanian-Israeli-Turkish, Jordanian-Israeli, or Jordanian-Turkish maneuvers. There are no plans in this regard at all because Jordan does not believe in the policy of military axes or alliances, but in cooperation among all the region's states.

Regarding Jordan's position on the formation of the new Turkish Government under Necmettin Erbakan, he said: Turkey is a friendly state and our relations are good. We do not believe that a change in government there

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will mean a change in Turkey's foreign policy toward Jordan.

Asked about opening the Gulf markets for Jordanian work force, al-Mu'ashshir said: We have covered a good distance in that regard. Gulf states have began to employ the Jordanian work force in large numbers, and there is a good progress in that regard.

He also noted the recent visits by senior Gulf officials to Jordan which produced good results, including the visit by the Saudi trade minister to Amman.

Regarding the security coordination with Saudi Arabia, he said that such coordination is not new, but has been existing between the two countries in an excellent way and was underlined during the Sharm al-Shaykh summit.

He said the recent Cairo summit statement was up to Jordan's expectations. He said: For the first time since the Madrid conference, all Arab states voiced their commitment to the peace process and its results. This confirms that the Arabs are advocates of peace and that these states do not oppose this trend.

He noted that Jordan contributed to the success of the summit and that the Jordanian rational position played a great role in that regard.

On a question concerning national sedition which some writers are discussing, and the position of, and the measures which the Press and Publications Department is taking in this regard, the information minister said the department asked those writers to stop writing on the subject. They were contacted and informed that this [their writings] violates the publications law and that the department will file lawsuits against them, he said.

Jordan: 'Tangible Detente' in Relations With Syria Noted

JN0207091996 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Jul 96 p 25

[Editorial: "On Jordanian-Syrian Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The telephone call between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Hafiz al-Asad is part of the ongoing dialogue between Amman and Damascus, which assumed a new character following the two leaders' meeting in Cairo summit. In that meeting, the two sides briefed each other on the details of their positions. The image became clear after Amman showed its cards to President al-Asad, thus clarifying the Jordanian position and making it apparent to the Syrian side that the frank meetings can serve bilateral relations, as well as the pan-Arab and national causes.

Jordanian-Syrian relations are witnessing a tangible detente. It should be noted that, inasmuch as relations between Amman and Damascus improve, the two sides' positions toward developments will become stronger, given the fact that they are based on mutual understanding. The two capitals will adopt positions that serve their interests and policies, but these positions should not contradict or weaken the stands of others or reduce the ability of others to maneuver. Above all, these positions should not clash with the pan-Arab position — which takes into consideration the higher pan-Arab interests — and the interests of each country.

We look forward to seeing more understanding and cooperation between the Jordanian and Syrian capitals. We hope that these relations will improve in a manner that will enable the two parties to employ all their energies and contacts to achieve their common objectives and serve each other's policies.

We are fully aware that Jordanian-Syrian relations have been strained in the past. We are aware that many parties have contributed to blocking the road between Amman and Damascus. We also know that the pan-Arab Jordanian position has never changed: King Husayn has always said that we extend our hand to all brothers. Amman will always be the house of all honorable Arabs and the heart of the nation. Jordan will continue to do its utmost to secure the wellbeing of the Arab nation.

Jordan: Committee Signs Cooperation Protocol With China

JN0207053896 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Joint Sino-Jordanian Committee on Economic, Commercial, and Technical Cooperation has signed a protocol for cooperation between the two sides in all fields.

The protocol included the possibility of hammering out a new contract to export additional 200,000 tonnes of Jordanian potash to China this year. It also covered cooperation in commercial fields regarding Jordan's exports to China, holding commercial exhibits in both countries, and establishing joint ventures.

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Lebanon: Fatah-Uprising Admits Arms Depot Hit by Missiles

NC0207094796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A source in Fatah-the Uprising has declared that the missile attack against the movement's base in the Wadi al-Aswad area near Yanta in western al-Biqa' came from a missile launchpad in the occupied territories. The source added that three missiles hit an arms depot on the base between 1030 and 1100.

Lebanese security sources said the enemy bombardment followed an Israeli air raid on the same area.

Lebanon: Israel Raids 'Terrorist' Targets

TA0207091496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Air Force planes raided terrorist targets belonging to the organization of Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], a Fatah breakaway, in al-Biqa'. All our planes returned safely to base.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that Abu-Musa's organization claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack in the Jordan Rift Valley last week in which three soldiers were killed.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid 'Resistance' Post in Yanta

NC0207085496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 July 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At around 1030 [0730 GMT] this morning Israeli warplanes raided a resistance post in Yanta near 'Ayta al-Fakhkhar in Qada' Rashayya and fired air-to-surface missiles, each weighing a ton. The areas of (Wadi al-Usud) and the woods of 'Ayta al-Fakhkhar are currently being subjected to rocket attacks from the occupation army posts.

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Syria: G-7 Praised for Statement on Middle East Peace Process

JN0107082496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 1 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial headlined "The Achievement of Peace Is an International Responsibility," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: There is an international consensus regarding the need to establish genuine peace in the Middle East. The EU summit in Florence, which coincided with the Arab summit, unequivocally emphasized that peace will be impossible in the Middle East unless the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace formula are upheld. In fact, the EU summit was more specific when it indicated that the failure to comply with the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference would cause the return the cycle of violence and tension in the region. It goes without saying that this would not be in the interest of any party, including the world community.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Arab summit in Cairo provided a new opportunity for the region to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. It left most of the doors open to achieve this desired peace.

AL-BA'TH continues: The summit of the seven largest industrialized nations in Lyon, France, was also sufficiently clear in its final communique with regard to the Middle East peace process. The summit participants made it perfectly clear that the land-for-peace formula must be upheld to achieve a settlement. These Arab and international positions were spelled out at almost the same time to reaffirm the achievement of peace in the region is highly possible if the concerned parties comply with the bases of the peace process, which is grounded in the land-for-peace formula. This formula was at the heart of the U.S. peace initiative.

AL-BA'TH asserts that it is Israel alone that is rejecting and obstructing peace. The statements made by Netanyahu confirm this fact. They show that Israel is seeking anything except peace. It is clear that Netanyahu's assertion that he is seeking peace in exchange for peace means that he is seeking to torpedo the peace process and nullify its terms of reference.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Now that the stands of the parties concerned with the regional conflict have been made clear, we believe that the world is now strongly called upon to play its required role to bring the peace process back on track. It might be useful to reassert that the U.S. Administration bears the greatest responsibility in this regard, because it is the party that authored the peace initiative, not to mention the fact that it undertook to play the role of an honest partner.

Syria: Commentary Urges G-7 Countries To 'Develop' Peace Position

JN0107182796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: After power in Israel passed into the hands of the right wing early last month, political figures in world capitals with which Israel maintains close relations, demanded that the Israeli prime minister be given enough time to reveal his true intentions away from his electoral campaign. The demand did not come from nothing. It expressed the deep anxiety of these world figures about the electoral program of the Israeli right wing, as if they had not believed that power in Israel would go to a government that would confront the world community with that program.

A full month after power in Israel changed hands, the Israeli right wing unashamedly declared that its government would adopt the electoral program. It also declared that it would retain the Golan and the Palestinian territories, that it would Judaize them through settlement, that no Palestinian state would be established, and that Judaizing Jerusalem was a given fact.

Moreover, the Israeli foreign minister announced yesterday that Israel would close Orient House in occupied Arab Jerusalem. Orient House is a Palestinian establishment which existed even before the Oslo accord; it belongs to the PLO and not to the self-rule authority; and it was the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation, which started negotiations with Israel at the Madrid conference and also held bilateral talks in Washington on the Palestinian-Israeli track. This behavior proves that Israel wants even to eradicate the starting point of the peace process. The Israeli right-wing government rejects the Madrid formula and the U.S. initiative on the land-for-peace principle, which sums up the three security Council resolutions on the Middle East peace process stipulating Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. At the same time, it alleges that it wants to negotiate peace without preconditions. In doing this, the Israeli right-wing government wants to make the peace process a sad joke and to undermine the peace process out of an illusion in which many Israeli rulers believe. The illusion is that Israel can do whatever it likes without being punished or even questioned.

Now that the Israeli Government itself canceled the imaginary difference which some people supposed existed between the Israeli right-wing's electoral program

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and the program of the new government, it is natural for observers and those interested in achieving peace in this part of the world to ask: What would the world community say, particularly those who demanded time for the Israeli right wing to go back on its electoral campaign? We cannot, however, say that all these people have lost patience. But we can say that they made clear hints to Israel and even issued statements, which can be seen as a message to the Israeli Government. They want to say that this government does not realize the impact of its tough position on peace and that the Israeli right-wing government does not consider the anger of the Arab people and the firm Arab position expressed by the Arab summit's statement.

This is clear in the position adopted by the French Lyon G-7 summit and the Russian Federation, which called for peace in accordance with the resolutions that led to the Madrid conference five years ago and in light of the land-for-peace principle.

This is the first serious international position which is facing the new Israeli Government with the facts of the region and the world and with the right way to build a just and comprehensive peace. It is logical and even necessary for the seven industrial countries and the Russian Federation to develop their position in order to wrest Israel's true commitment to peace in return for the Arabs' commitment that is based on the resolutions of the world community. Otherwise, by its antipeace behavior, the Israeli Government will exacerbate tension in the region and the world.

Syria: Al-Asad Asks al-Shar' To Resume Iran, Bahrain 'Mission'

JN0107165896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and acquainted himself with a report from al-Shar' on his recent mission in Iran and Bahrain. The president asked al-Shar' to resume his mission in Iran and Bahrain and gave him two letters for Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran this afternoon on his second visit to the Iranian capital in two days. He was received by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, and Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan.

In statements to the press on arrival, al-Shar' said that Syria was making efforts to bolster the Arab situation and entrench security and stability in the region. Asked about the results of his visit to Bahrain, the minister said: During my visit to Bahrain and my meetings with officials of the fraternal State of Bahrain, headed by Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, I sensed a positive intention to remove the existing flaws in relations between Iran and Bahrain.

Al-Shar' added: We had discussions with the Bahraini prime minister and foreign minister and we sensed their desire to respond to what I conveyed to them from the Iranian leadership. This is encouraging and calls for optimism that progress will be achieved in Iranian-Bahraini relations in particular and Iranian relations with the region's countries in general. The foreign minister also said: The Bahraini officials voiced their interest in the content of President Hafiz al-Asad's letter, which I conveyed to them, and they welcomed statements by Iranian officials, particularly those of Dr. Velayati on Iran's concern about the security and stability of the region.

Regarding Syrian-Turkish relations, al-Shar' said: Syrian-Turkish and Turkish-Arab relations reached a point of coolness as a result of the signing of the Turkish-Israeli military accord early this year. However, the new government, which will be led by Erbakan, and its positive position during the electoral campaign and the formation of the government gives us hope that Syrian-Turkish relations in particular and Turkish-Arab relations in general will return to normal because of the existing joint interests and ties between Turkey and the Arab countries.

Al-Shar' added: We believe that the Turkish Government will not have any differences with any of the Arab or Islamic countries only when its foreign policy takes into account the true interests of the Turkish people. We in Syria are willing to maintain good and strong relations with neighboring Turkey based on joint interests and the historical Islamic ties.

Regarding Iran's role in the region, al-Shar' said: We believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a great role to play in bolstering the region's security and stability. This role, he said, is not only of interest to Syria and the Arab countries, by also to the world at large.

Syria: Press on Mediation Between Bahrain, Iran

JN0207090096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH comments on Syria's pioneering role in serving higher pan-Arab interests. Under the headline "Syrian Efforts To Settle Differences Between Bahrain, Iran,"

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AL-BA'TH says the efforts of al-Asad's Syria to resolve the differences between Bahrain and Iran are brotherly efforts that stem from Syria's awareness of the realities in the region and its constant efforts to mobilize the energies of the Arab nation and friendly and supportive forces to promote Arab rights and face the serious challenges on more than one level.

AL-BA'TH adds: Our region is currently coming under a fierce and hostile onslaught that seeks to sow sedition and discord and inflame hotbeds of tension. The purpose of this is to implement suspect and premeditated schemes to control the region and prevent its people from achieving their legitimate objectives of security, stability, and a just and comprehensive peace.

The newspaper continues: Israel makes no secret of its plans to turn the Middle East into an explosive region on a very large scale in order to achieve its declared objective of liquidating the peace process and besieging nationalist forces that reject its distorted and warped concept of peace and security.

AL-BA'TH asserts that the Syrian initiative to mediate between Bahrain and Iran seeks to resolve the differences between them and restore relations of amity, cooperation, and understanding. This initiative is also meant to face challenges and threats. This requires finding common denominators of cooperation and coordination and mobilizing the capabilities of the region's countries to promote the interests, security, stability, and safety of its peoples.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Syria is more determined than ever before to go ahead with its efforts to foil hostile schemes against the security and stability of the region and to prevent Israel from achieving its aggressive and expansionist objectives.

TISHRIN comments on the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace and the arrogant Israeli position that rejects the conditions of peace, which are based on with the resolutions of international legitimacy, the Madrid frame of reference, and the land-for-peace principle.

In an editorial headlined "Withdrawal From the Golan Is the Basis of Peace," TISHRIN says: Apparently, Netanyahu and other Likud leaders do not care about the possible consequences of their continued rejection of the requirements of the peace process and their continued hard-line policy, which is bound to destroy the peace process.

TISHRIN adds: Peace is impossible to achieve while Israel keeps the occupied Arab territories. The peace process can only resume on the basis of the land-for-peace principle, the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and Israel's full adoption of the Madrid formula.

The newspaper expresses its belief that the Israeli Government knows well that peace is impossible to achieve without full withdrawal from the Golan and all the other occupied Arab territories. TISHRIN says Syria can never beg for what is its own. The Golan, as the Israelis and the international community acknowledge, is Syrian Arab territory. Therefore, the main prelude to making peace in the region is the return of the Golan in full to the motherland.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN holds Israel responsible for the consequences of its gross recalcitrance and the marketing of its security and vital pretexts, which serve its objective of expansion and keeping the occupied Arab territories, primarily the Golan. The newspaper asserts that peace guarantees security, and not vice versa. Peace and occupation are irreconcilable. Netanyahu and others should not place contradictions together.

Syria: TISHRIN Hopes for 'Real Thaw' in Relations With Turkey

JN0107080096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 1 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial headlined "The Erbakan-led Government and Our Expectations," the newspaper TISHRIN says today that it believes the new Turkish Government, led by Necmettin Erbakan, will usher in the possibility of a real thaw in Turkey's ties with neighboring countries, particularly Syria. Previous Turkish governments increased tension with neighboring countries, which promoted apprehension and instability. This approach was particularly pursued against Syria. Turkish authorities refused to resolve the chronic water crisis and made false accusations against Damascus, not to mention the many provocative practices they carried out against it. To cap its hostile policy against Syria in particular, and the Arabs in general, Ankara concluded a military accord with Israel that allows the latter to use the Turkish airspace and carry out security operations against Syria, TISHRIN maintains.

TISHRIN adds: Ankara's enhancement of its ties with Israel will create new problems for Turkey. This will not guarantee the aspired stability and security. The results of this accord have been contrary to all official Turkish calculations. The accord with Israel sparked a wave of popular discontent in Turkey. Turkish voices were heard demanding that the accord be revoked. The Arab states also condemned the accord, saying that it targets them.

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In addition, cooperation with Israel involves Turkey in the Arab-Israeli conflict, rehabilitates the climate of alliances in the region, and foments tension and conflict. It does not bring security and peace to the Turkish people.

TISHRIN continues: Syria has handled all these unfavorable Turkish political practices with patience and tenacity. It has sought to cool the situation and remove tension in Syrian-Turkish relations. Syria is genuinely eager to safeguard historical ties with its neighbor. Now a new Turkish Government, led by Erbakan, has been formed. Damascus sincerely hopes that this government will remove all the factors that have caused the current estrangement in bilateral ties. Any move the new Turkish Government makes to thaw in its ties with Damascus will be met with goodwill and a similar move.

TISHRIN says: Israel has made enormous efforts to involve Turkey in the cycle of regional conflicts and to destroy Turkey's ties with its Arab and Islamic environment, which is only natural, because the mainstay of Israeli policy is based on fueling existing hotbeds of tension, promoting new factors of conflict, preventing any rapprochement between the Arabs and Islamic countries, chief among which is Turkey, and creating propitious climates for Israel to dominate the entire Middle East.

TISHRIN concludes: Syrian-Turkish relations are not at their best right now. That these relations have reached an all time low is not Damascus' fault. On the contrary, Syria has made enormous efforts to safeguard the historical and economic ties with Turkey. It has constantly sought to conduct a serious dialogue with Turkey to resolve the water problem. Developments have shown that the use of pressure and threats with Syria is useless and that the only way to defuse tension in Syrian-Turkish relations lies in the existence of goodwill on Turkey's part, as well as its readiness to engage in a thorough dialogue to identify solutions that guarantee the two sides' rights and interests. It is our strong hope that the Erbakan-led government will make positive gestures toward Syria. Such gestures will be met with sympathetic ears, as well as a willingness to resolve all outstanding problems in a manner that promotes the existing historical ties between the two countries and peoples.

Syria: Prospects for Improved Ties to Turkish Government Viewed

JN0207104596 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 2 Jul (SANA)—TISHRIN says the new Turkish Government of Necmettin Erbakan is qualified to restore Turkish-Arab relations to their normal situation because these relations are ones of cooperation, neighborliness, and historical friendship, and are mutual interest to Syria and Turkey and the Turkish and Arab peoples.

In the "Viewpoint" column today, the newspaper says: What facilitates the tasks of the new Turkish Government is the fact that the crises in Turkish-Arab relations, particularly with Syria, were caused by the Turkish Government and not by the other side.

TISHRIN says: Syria is open to all ways to restore relations and has constantly called on the Turkish side engage in constructive dialogue, without provocation—dialogue that realizes the mutual interests of the two countries.

It says that Syria only wants Turkey to respect the international agreements on shared rivers and to give Syria its rights to the water from the Euphrates River.

The newspaper says: Syria wants Turkey to preserve its historical relations with the Arabs and to avoid alliances that harm these relations and expose the region to real dangers.

TISHRIN says: Although Syria was not responsible for aggravating relations with Turkey, it is ready to begin a new stage of cooperation, as long as Turkey shows the same readiness and takes into consideration the interests of the other party concerning the issues of water and Israel. Israel is occupying Arab territories, refusing to commit itself to the principles of just peace that were approved by the UN resolutions, and working to drag Turkey into subversive alliances in the region.

Syria: Official Predicts Turkish-Israeli Accord Will Fail

NC0107210296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Syrian Assistant Foreign Minister 'Adnan 'Umran, who is visiting Egypt.

Afterward, 'Umran said the meeting dealt with all the resolutions issued by the Arab summit. [passage omitted] It also dealt with joint Arab action and the establishment of a Water Center in Damascus, as approved by the Arab League Council at its recent meeting in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Asked his view of the Turkish-Israeli military agreement, the Syrian official said this accord will fall like the autumn leaves. It poses a security danger to all the Arab and Muslim countries. Turkish public opinion is realizing that day by day and in the end it will not accept this agreement.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Prime Minister Asks Groups To Set Up Elected Government

LD0107153296 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday morning Brother Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan [ISA] met the commanders and elders of Nangarhar Province.

The prime minister's press office reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that Nabi Padshah and Mawlawi Abdol Shokur spoke on behalf of the others and congratulated Brother Hekmatyar and said: The people in Nangarhar Province support the unity of the jihadi formation and regard your appointment as prime minister, Mojahed Brother, as an important event. On behalf of the people in our province, we give you the assurance that we entirely support the aspirations of the Islamic revolution and the process of peace.

Expressing appreciation for the enthusiasm shown, Brother Hekmatyar said: From the bottom of my heart I thank the brethren in Nangarhar. Thank you for coming and taking the trouble to travel to Kabul.

Brother Hekmatyar said: Our nation needs peace more than anything else. For this reason, peace is at the top of our agenda. We closed the highways in the past because of the lofty aspirations of Islam and the martyrs of the revolution [as heard]. I [? came to this conclusion], considering the interests of the country and of Islam, to end the tragic situation in the country and save the country which is heading for disintegration.

I ask all the jehadi formations to work with us and show their actual solidarity with the Islamic government so that, through joint efforts, we can provide conditions for an election and set up an elected government.

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Warns Taleban About Kabul Bombardment

LD0107111896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar, the Afghan prime minister [as heard], has warned the Taleban about the continual bombardment of Kabul.

According to a report by the Central News Unit from Islamabad, Hekmatyar spoke about the possibility of joint military action by the Jam'iyat-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Eslami against the Taleban and called on all Afghan groups to participate in the country's peace process.

Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Attack on Kabul Injures 4

LD0107181396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the city of Kabul was again hit by rockets fired by the Taleban group.

A source from Kabul city's security commission reported to BAKHTAR that the Taleban group this afternoon fired nine rockets on residential areas of Kabul city, injuring four people injured and damaging two houses.

Afghanistan: Kabul Team Leaves for Balkh Province for Talks With Dostam

LD0107224596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation, representing the High State Council of Afghanistan, left Kabul for Mazar-e Sharif, capital of Balkh Province, for talks with General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan [Jonbesh-e Melli].

According to an IRNAW [Iranian News Agency] report from Kabul, Golboddin Hekmatyar, the new prime minister, is planning to go to Mazar-e Sharif in the next few days for talks with General Dostam [to ask him] to form a coalition with the government and to resolve differences.

In reporting this news, a responsible source of the Afghan Government said on Sunday to an IRNAW correspondent that the visit to Mazar-e Sharif by a government delegation was in reply to a peaceseeking goodwill visit to Kabul by General Dostam's (?delegation).

He hoped that on the basis of old ties between Hekmatyar and General Dostam, Hekmatyar's visit would be able to remove differences between the government and the National Islamic Movement and thus bring new developments into the Afghanistan scene.

According to this high-ranking government authority, who did not want his name to be mentioned, the delegation who had been sent to Kabul a few days ago brought a peace message to the government of Afghanistan. He said that General Dostum, after the recent developments, has asked for reconciliation and the removal of differences.

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Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Urges Salvation at Friday Prayers

LD2906164096 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Hekmatyar, Amir of the Hezb-e Eslami and prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, led yesterday's Friday prayers in Haji Yaqub grand mosque [located in the center of Kabul].

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported from Kabul that a large number of Ulema, elders and Kabul citizens attended the prayers and listened with affection to the Friday sermon read by Brother Hekmatyar.

In his sermon, the prime minister shed light on the political-military situation and recent developments, the report added. He regarded the unity between Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami as an important step for security and peace. He called on all relevant parties to participate in the process, to save the country from the current crisis and from the risk of disintegration.

According to another report, the executive council of the [words indistinct], chaired by Brother Hekmatyar, held a session in Kabul yesterday.

The session discussed the Islamic Shari'a, the enforcement of Islamic aspirations and the creation of prosperity.

Our correspondent adds that Brother Hekmatyar met a number of commanders, elders and tribal leaders, and discussed recent developments in detail, in Kabul yesterday afternoon. By giving them information about recent developments, he drew the attention of the commanders to their responsibilities.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Zia Rejects Hasina Call To Join Government

BK0107155396 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Barrister Moudud Ahmed, former vice president and the Jatiya Party leader, has joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP]. He met BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at [words indistinct] and expressed his allegiance to her leadership.

Talking to newsmen, Begum Zia said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's proposal to BNP to join a national consensus government is unrealistic. She said that agreement may be reached on some important national issues.

Bangladesh: 2 Ministers, 4 State Ministers Take Oath

BK2906154496 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Another two ministers and four ministers of state took the oath of office tonight. President Abdur Rahman Biswas administered their oath of office at the Bangabhaban [president house].

The two ministers are:

Salahuddin Yusuf — Health and Family Welfare
A.S.M. Abdur Rab — Shipping

The state ministers are:

Professor Abu Sayeed — Information
Rashed Mosharraf — Land
A.K. Faizul Haq — Jute
M.A. Mannan — Labor and Manpower

India

India: Official Hits Back at UK, Russian Criticism of CTBT Stand

BK2906072796 Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by C. Raja Mohan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Smoked out into the open with their real reservations on a treaty to out-law nuclear explosions worldwide, Britain and Russia clashed with India late Wednesday night here at the Conference on Disarmament. India rejected the British and Russian attempts to hold up the talks on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] by focusing on New Delhi's unwillingness to support it in the present form.

In a strong response, India declared that instead of shooting from behind the Indian shoulders, Russia and Britain should lay out in public their real concerns about the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and end the shadow boxing over the question when the treaty will be implemented.

The Indian Ambassador, Ms. Arundhati Ghose, did not mince words when she responded, that India had the "courage of conviction" to go public with her own concerns about the limitations of the CTBT in the present form. Instead of hiding behind India's skirts, she replied, Britain and Russia should dare to reveal their true fears about the CTBT.

As negotiators here from 61 countries race against time to finalise the CTBT, Russia and Britain along with Pakistan and, and less vocally China, are all insisting

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that there will be no treaty without the participation of India. They are demanding that the five nuclear weapon powers and the three threshold nuclear powers — India, Pakistan and Israel — must join the treaty before it can be implemented. Egypt, which is concerned about Israel has joined this group.

Many delegations are beginning to see through this game aimed at obstructing progress on the treaty. It is now out in the open that Russia and China are not prepared to accept the tough inspection regime being demanded by the United States for the verification of the CTBT. In both the countries there are strong apprehensions about the prospect of American intelligence snooping around their nuclear weapons-related facilities. Unwilling to be seen as blocking the treaty on this issue, they are trying to shift the battle to the question of "entry-into-force" and present India as the principal obstacle.

At a meeting that went into the early hours of Thursday in an effort to resolve the impasse, the British Ambassador, Sir Michael Weston, declared that the participation of the eight nuclear capable countries is critical for the success of the treaty.

One of the major objectives of the treaty, Ambassador Weston said, is to rope in the three countries — India, Pakistan and Israel — which are outside the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] into the non-proliferation framework of the CTBT. Suggesting that India is "wriggling" to escape from the CTBT, Ambassador Weston declared that India should not be "let off the hook."

Rejecting the British bullying on the CTBT, Ambassador Ghose said instead of trying to disrupt the treaty on the question of "entry- into-force," Britain should come out with its real position on the treaty. It is well-known that the United Kingdom was a late convert to the CTBT and had to be pulled in kicking and screaming into the talks by the United States. Britain had agreed, only reluctantly, with the American decision to back a "zero-yield" test ban treaty last August.

As the discussions on entry-into-force turned acrimonious, many other delegations, including the non-aligned and Western, rejected the British position. A number of countries, including Canada, Australia, and Indonesia want the early implementation of the treaty, with or without participation by India and other threshold states. They are ready to go along with the compromise package being put forward by the Chairman of the negotiating group, Mr. Jaap Ramaker of the Netherlands. Many delegations are backing the Indian position that no country can be forced to sign the CTBT. They are angry with the British argument that the CTBT talks in essence, are about the positions of the eight nuclear capable countries.

Ambassador Grigory Berdennikov of Russia has continued to be adamant in demanding India's prior signature on the CTBT. As Mr Berdennikov tried to finesse the issue by a reference to the good relations between New Delhi and Moscow, Ambassador Ghose declared the CTBT debate has "little to do with Indo-Russian bilateral relations." She pointed to the fact that Russia as a member of the group of five nuclear weapon powers, the P-5, was making deals within that group on key issues such as scope of the treaty. If Russia had any problems with special inspections it could sort it out with the United States in the P-5.

China has been less vocal in its demand that India become a party to the treaty before it comes into effect. China says it is the sovereign right of India to decide on the CTBT, but continues to back the position that all eight nuclear capable countries must join the treaty. As it lets Russia and Pakistan do the talking on this issue. China is strongly concerned about the special inspections being proposed by the United States. Beijing may not be unhappy if the treaty is delayed on the question of "entry-into-force," and India gets the flak for it.

Seeking to block the efforts to put India in the position of a "treaty-breaker," Ambassador Arundhati Ghose communicated to the chairman of the CTBT negotiating group on Wednesday night the Indian decision to withdraw its technical facilities from the proposed international monitoring system to verify the compliance with the CTBT. This should put an end to the argument that the Indian signature on the CTBT is essential, since India is one of the countries that has monitoring facilities. By serving notice now, India has left it to the negotiators to make alternative arrangements.

India: Nation's Negotiator Stresses No Compromise on CTBT

BK3006160396 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Jun 96 pp 1,9

[Report by Chitra Subramaniam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 61-state talks to conclude a nuclear test ban treaty was brought to a close today with a "consensus draft treaty" leaving a host of questions, including the most important one unanswered — is there a treaty?

India has been listed with a group of countries whose signature is required by the treaty to come into effect. Diplomats say when the conference resumes on July 29 New Delhi will have its options, including that of

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ratification of the treaty, if there is a consensus around the current text.

As one negotiating deadline was missed, the next was already looking doubtful. India has rejected the draft pact, saying it was unlikely to change its mind.

"Today we will not make any decision," the Dutch chairman of the talks, Jaap Ramaker, said as he placed what he said was a draft Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] text, and set July 29 as the date when countries will be required to come back with their "thoughts" on the text.

"We do not know what the outcome will be," Ramaker said as several countries, including China, questioned the basis on which he had brought the talks to a close.

The new text — which is the old chairman's text with a few minor additions — does not address any of India's concerns either on a timetable for nuclear disarmament or on the question of banning blasts in laboratories.

"Let it be very clear - India will not sign a treaty that does not reflect its concerns," Ambassador Arundhati Ghosh told the meeting immediately after the new text was circulated.

She questioned the manner in which negotiations had been conducted and regretted that despite the fact that India had been and was still willing to negotiate, "to this day, we have not had a single round of negotiations," she said.

The "compromise formula" for the treaty to enter into force — where attempts were made in the past few days to "capture" India — says the CTBT shall enter into force 180 days after a list of countries (listed in the text) deposit the instruments of ratification but in no case "earlier than two years after its opening for signature."

The list of 44 countries includes India, Pakistan Israel as well as all the five nuclear weapons states.

Further, the formula says, if the treaty has not entered into force three years after the date of the anniversary of its opening, a conference shall be convened to examine and propose further action, including "acceleration of the ratification process."

The US has said it is flexible about who should sign the treaty before it takes effect but Russia, United Kingdom, China and Pakistan want all the P-8 (which includes India) on board.

Pakistan, speaking after India, said a quick perusal of the treaty showed its concerns had not been met. Pakistan, like China and Russia, has reservations on mechanisms that will trigger inspections and like China opposes information coming from national technical means (NTM) of the US to be used for calling an inspection. All these countries say NTM is shorthand for spying and the talks have remained deadlocked on this issue for months.

"... There hasn't been any real movement at all from the basic starting point of the Chinese, Russians and Pakistanis... who have not moved once on such things as trigger mechanism," chief US negotiator Stephan Ledogar told newsmen.

In addition to the deep divisions between countries on the substance of the CTBT which remain, diplomats questioned the basis for stopping negotiations and producing a text on which there was no consensus.

"As far as China is concerned, there is no consensus. Ramaker has stopped the negotiations, we have not," said Chinese disarmament negotiator Sha Zukang [name as published] as he went in to the talks. He said there was no agreement on an issue critical to China — verification.

"At this stage when major divisions remain, the chairman has no authority to end the negotiations " the Chinese diplomat said, adding that only a decision of "sovereign states" could decide whether or not consensus had been reached on a text.

She told the CTBT negotiators "the Chinese delegation is dissatisfied with the text and the Chinese Government will take a decision in the light of its own security interest."

China and the United States remain deadlocked on the decision- making mechanism that would trigger an on-site inspection. The US. favours a strong verification regime while China says such inspections should be rare and carefully mandated.

The group of 21 developing countries said it "regrets that the session on disarmament has come to an end without producing a consensus draft Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)."

Egyptian Ambassador Munir Zahran, who read out the G-21's statement, later told THE INDIAN EXPRESS "we have not decided to stop negotiating where is the consensus?"

Envoys said the basis on which they are expected to take the text back to their capitals remains a major point of dispute. "When we asked the chairman on what basis he had decided to stop the negotiations and produce a consensus document, he said it was his understanding that a basis for consensus existed - most of us don't agree with his understanding" a senior South Asian diplomat said.

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India: BJP President Interviewed on Politics, CTBT

BK3006152896 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Jun 96 p 11

["Excerpts" of interview with L.K. Advani, Bharatiya Janata Party president, by Janak Singh; date and place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Singh] Do you think the United FROM government is coming to grips with the country's problems?

[Advani] A more important thing to consider is: Can this government act independently? Alter promising it support for five years in Parliament, PV Narasimha Rao declared within a week later in Berhampur that the government should not take the support for granted. Although corruption is the country's besetting sin at the moment, Deve Gowda declared in Parliament that he would be more concerned with rooting out poverty than removing this evil. The government is diverting attention from the main problems afflicting the country.

The touchstone of the governments commitment to eradicate corruption will be how it deals with the Suraj Mandal graft case and the urea scam. In the first case PV Narasimha Rao himself is the main culprit, and in the other his son is allegedly involved. We are watching the progress. It would be premature to say anything at this stage. But I think as a whole corruption cases have started coming to light because of pressure from the judiciary.

The very composition of the government puts a question mark on its future. It has not emerged from the verdict of the elections. Both the largest party, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the second largest party, the Congress are out of it. The constituents supporting it are those who have fought against each other. It is a government sans mandate.

[Singh] Why is your party so upset about the uplinking facilities reportedly promised by the government to Rupert Murdoch when it is just an extension of the liberalisation policy?

[Advani] Of course, we are all for liberalisation. But we cannot support the move to allow Rupert Murdoch this facility when it has not been given to Indian operators. The USA is all for multinationals and liberalisation. But can non-Americans start ventures in the United States? The government there is very strict on these matters because they impinge on the rights of their own nationals. Why should our government do so?

Rupert Murdoch makes a courtesy call on the Prime Minister and gets the biggest concession that he has been denied in several other countries. The important thing is when we did not give this facility to our own entrepreneurs, why should a foreigner be accorded this concession?

[Singh] Does the BJP endorse the government stand on CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty]?

[Advani] Mr Vajpayee was the first to raise his voice against CTBT. We not only oppose this treaty but also go a step further. We want India to have nuclear parity with neighbours. When China and Pakistan have developed nuclear weapons, there is no reason why India should not have a nuclear deterrent.

[Singh] How can the BJP claim to be a national party when its policies and programmes reflect no concern whatever for the minorities? The construction of Ram temple is an anathema to the Muslims. The ban on cow slaughter would rob tribals of their in source of food, which is beef.

[Advani] UP [Uttar Pradesh] has a large concentration of Muslims. Yet we won 53 out of 86 parliamentary seats in the state. This is not to say that we have no consideration for Muslim sentiments. The temple is a question of our national commitment from which we cannot depart. Before 1947, the bulk of Muslim community was loyal to MA Jinnah. That did not stop the Congress from claiming to be a secular party. Similarly, if a section of Muslims still have reservations about our policies, it cannot debar us from claiming that we are a national party.

A uniform civil code and ban on cow slaughter are issues mentioned in the Constitution. The BJP has not created these issues. Every government is enjoined to take measures for implementation of these proposals. As for the question of beef being a staple food for tribals, all I would ask you is to consider the situation in countries where ham is banned. Are Christians not living in these nations? It is nonsense to make an issue of a thing which is otherwise of little consequence.

Nobody can deny the BJP the status of a national party after the last elections. It is true that the BJP is not as strong in the south as in the north. But we won seven seats in the region. In the Tamil Nadu assembly election, the BJP was able to win a seat without alliance with any other party. This was significant when the Congress had drawn a complete blank in the state.

[Singh] The BJP, it seems, does not know bow to rule. The party was discredited in Himachal Pradesh in both the assembly and parliamentary elections even after being in power in the state. In Gujarat, the party is becoming synonymous with infighting.

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[Advani] The charge is unjustified. The situation in Himachal Pradesh was quite different from Gujarat. In Himachal Pradesh the BJP lost power because it was unable to blend good governance with prudent politics. In Gujarat despite the infighting the party could win 16 out of 22 parliamentary seats in the last elections. This did not reflect disenchantment of the people: it showed only admiration for the party and the government. Of course, there has been infighting. And we have already taken measures to set things right. The people are quite happy with the way the state is being governed.

[Singh] The BJP and the Congress policies and programmes, judging from their manifestos, are similar. What is the great new thing that BJP will do to transform this poverty-ridden nation into a thriving modern state when it comes to power?

[Advani] In all developing and developed countries, there is a lot of similarity in the policies and programmes of various parties. The Labour Party in England?is advocating now what used to be the agenda of the Conservatives. Similarly, there is little to differentiate in the manifestos of the main contenders of power all over the world. The difference is in the implementation of policies and the commitment of people who win the mandate to live up the expectations aroused by them. The BJP will be very different from Congress when it comes to power after the next elections.

India: Officials Claim Nation Faces Nuclear Threat From Neighbors

BK3006154596 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Jun 96 p 9

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Top officials in the defence services and in the defence ministry are veering round to the view that India's biggest security threat comes from the nuclear weapons capability of the neighbouring countries.

"The oft-repeated terminology of keeping the nuclear option open has become meaningless. There is now a need to examine how best to translate this into effective deterrence to safeguard our vital interests in political and military terms," said a senior defence ministry official pointing to the need for India to go overtly nuclear.

"There is no longer any ambiguity about reports that China has helped Pakistan with its nuclear programme and has supplied to it nuclear capable M-11 medium range missiles. Yet there has not been any effort from our side to put in place an adequate deterrent," he added.

Informed sources say that the three service headquarters have been regularly highlighting the nuclear is sue as the biggest threat India faces in the case of a future war, especially with Pakistan. "In-house studies have been conducted and some essential requirements been projected before the government. But this has been met with political indecision. The nuclear threat issue has almost been like a taboo with the politicians clear that Pakistan has both the mate as well as sections of the bureaucracy," said a senior army official who did not want to be named.

Asked for his comments, former chief of air staff Air Chief Marshal N.C. Suri strongly advocated the need for India to go nuclear. "It is rial and facility for nuclear, chemical and biological warfare. There is no reason why we should not go nuclear, and unless we do that we will be pressurised all around," said Mr Suri. "Despite exploding a nuclear device in 1974, India kept away from any further testing and from pursuing a nuclear weapons programme. Thus who could have been a better adherent of the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] than India? And yet India gets bullied around with monotonous regularity, particularly by the west, on the nuclear issue," he said.

Several defence analysts argue that it is imperative that India carry out a nuclear test mainly for two reasons. One, for technological reasons to improve upon the 1974 design and make it capable for the available delivery systems. The second is to send a political message to the hostile powers. Unlike the U.S. made F-16s with the Pakistani Air Force, no Indian military aircraft is capable of delivering a nuclear bomb. "We will need to wire the Mirage-2000 appropriately and develop a special soft ware as two basic requirements for making this multi-role fighter nuclearly capable," said a senior air force official.

Iran

Iran: Top Mideast Terrorists Reportedly Hosted in 'Secret' Tehran Summit

BR0107091996 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 29 Jun 96 p 9

["Foreign Desk" report: "Ayatollahs Convene Terrorist Hard-Liners"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran is serrying ranks and has convened its loyal supports in the Middle East. According to disclosures made to CORRIERE DELLA SERA by Egyptian sources, representatives of the region's main terrorist groups held a secret meeting in Tehran a few days ago. The meeting, which was held at the same time as the Arab summit in Cairo, was organized by Iranian intelligence in close contact with the pasdaran command.

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After lengthy discussions and a thorough examination of the political and strategic situation, the participants at the summit issued a joint communique that will have the task of coordinating the various groups' actions and attacks. Supervision was entrusted to the "al-Quds Army," the Iranian intelligence services' organization that deals with clandestine missions around the world.

Every month the committee will meet to submit for Iran's approval any operations designed to destabilize the Gulf area and to weaken the countries of the region.

The list of those attending the summit is remarkable. It includes some of the region's most dangerous extremists — Ramadan Shallah, head of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad; Ahmad Salah of the Egyptian Jihad; Imad Mugnyeh, head of the Lebanese Hizballah's security service; a senior Hamas official, a representative of the Saudi terrorist billionaire, 'Usmah bin Laden, who finances the Afghan mojaheddin; a member of George Habbash's Palestinian group; an envoy of Turkey's Islamic party, Refah; and an official of Ahmad Jubrayyil's group.

Another important participant was Abudallah Ocalan, known as "Apo," leader of the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party. With the blessing of the Syrians, who grant him hospitality and protection, Apo had meeting with the Iranian secret services, from which he requested further aid and the establishment of a command in Iran in order to support the tough struggle with the Turkish Army.

The Tehran meeting ended with the assignment of a special role — for coordination, planning, and attacks — to Lebanon's Imad Mugnayah, Saudi Arabia's 'Usmah bin Laden, and Egypt's Salah.

Iran: DPK Statement Claims Turkish Forces Killed 7 Peshmerga

NC0107072196 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1400 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Statement by the representative office of the Democratic Party of Kordestan, DPK, abroad issued on 28 June; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Incoming reports from Kordestan indicate that at 1500 on Friday 1 Tir 1375 [21 June] DPK partisans moving in the Salmas border region and inside Iranian territory were attacked by Turkish forces. To avoid a confrontation the peshmerga sent two unarmed people to the Turkish forces to explain to them that they were members of the DPK and that they did not intend to enter a conflict with the Turkish forces.

The Turkish forces ignored their explanations and executed the two on the spot before surrounding the peshmerga and firing on them with various weapons. Seven party combatants were martyred and one, 'Abdi Baghu'i, was taken hostage.

The DPK strongly opposes this unacceptable act by the Turkish forces and insists that the Turkish Government punish the perpetrators of this crime. The DPK also expects international forums to react to this illegal act by the Turkish Government and to condemn the murder of Iranian Kurdish combatants by the Turkish forces.

The dead are:
1. Comrade Amir Jahandideh from (Soma);
2. Comrade Sadeq Hasanzadeh from (Kenarbarosh);
3. Comrade Shamseddin Rasuli from (Soma);
4. Comrade Qader Amirzadeh from (Soma);
5. Comrade Rasul Hamidi from (Shefirat);
6. Comrade Jamal Ra'i from Salmas;
7. Comrade Eskandar 'Alizadeh from (Soma);
[Signed] The DPK's representative office abroad
[Date] 8 Tir 1375, 28 June 1996

Iran: Orumiyeh Majles Deputy Condemns Turkey's Incursion

LD3006180796 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Prov., June 30, IRNA — The representative of the people of Orumiyeh in the islamic consultative assembly (Majles), 'Ali Reza Ghanizadeh, released a statement on Saturday condemning the shelling of Razhan area in the West Azarbaijan Province by Turkey's helicopters causing death and injuries to a number of the villagers.

'Ali Reza Ghanizadeh called on international bodies to condemn the Turkish Army's incursion.

The countryside of Razhan region of Orumiyeh was attacked by three Turkish choppers at 1900 hours on Wednesday, as the result of which six tribesmen fell martyr, 16 others were wounded, over 800 were killed and 700 heads were missing. [sentence as received]

Iran: Velayati Protests Recent Turkish Violation of Airspace

LD3006083796 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday declared that Iran will take all necessary measures for protecting the "safety and security" of the country and will not let Turkey get away "so easily" with such actions.

In an interview with the morning daily IRAN NEWS printed Sunday, he said Iran's serious concern has been expressed to Turkey on its recent violation of Iranian

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airspace. The Turkish ambassador has been summoned by the Foreign Ministry to provide further explanations.

Turkish helicopter gunships attacked Iranian border villages last Thursday killing six Iranian nationals and wounding 15 others.

"We will pursue this matter to its logical conclusion. This is not something we can ignore, because it involves our national security and territorial integrity," Velayati noted.

Referring to an accord signed by Ankara and Tel Aviv last February which sparked heated criticism from most Arab countries and the Islamic Republic, he said, "we have taken serious and decisive action to neutralize the potential danger coming from the Turkish- Israeli accord."

The controversial accord allows the Zionist regime to use Turkish airspace which observers believe poses a danger to neighboring countries including Syria and Iran.

"We summoned the Turkish ambassador and protested aganist the accord and also put forward our own viewpoints on regional issues," he concluded.

Iran: Deputy Interior Minister Calls On Turkey for Explanation

LD0107110196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has once again called on Turkey to provide an adequate explanation about an attack by its military helicopters on our western borders.

In an exclusive interview with our reporter, the deputy interior minister in charge of security stressed that if Turkey failed to provide an adequate explanation, pay compensation, and apologize officially, Iran would lodge a complaint with official international sources and supply them with documents on the case.

Mr. Bolandiyan said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was extremely sensitive about its national sovereignty and the security of its citizens and would take sufficient measures to guard their security.

He pointed out that a senior Turkish delegation would be visiting Tehran next week to review the case at close quarters.

Iran: Daily Sees Turkish Airspace Violation as Part of U.S. Plan

LD3006210096 Tehran IRNA in English 2008 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — In a commentary Sunday, the Persian daily SALAM reflected on the violation of the Iranian airspace by Turkish helicopters last week saying that the Islamic republic would do better to redefine the framework of her commitment to maintaining good neighborly relations with her neighbors in the face of Washington's plots to isolate the country.

The commentary said in part:

"Turkey's air raid against a border area in Iran involved a casualty of 21 Iranians. In the wake of the attack, the Iranian ambassador to Ankara called on the Turkish Government to offer an official apology to Iran as well as make adequate compensation. The Turkish ambassador to Tehran, too, was consequently summoned by the Iranian Foreign Ministry to receive Iran's formal protest. He said he would contact his home office and offer an explanation after his consultation with home.

"The incident that took the lives of a number of Iranian civilians recalls another attack against an Iranian village near Sardasht by Turkish fighters in February, 1995. Also the killing of an Iranian woman and her child as they were run over by the automobile of a Turkish diplomat in Iran is still live in the minds of the Iranian people and have hurt their feelings.

"A few points obviously pop up into the mind in that connection: To begin with, the last week attack by Turkish helicopters coincided with the appointment in Turkey of a new cabinet of the Turkish Government led by the leader of Refah party Najmeddin Erbekan, which has Islamic inclinations.

"Erbekan's cabinet, although formed in collaboration with Tansu Ciller's Right Path party, is intensely hated by Zionist elements with the Turkish Government. The same elements are not likely to spare any effort whatsoever to pull down Refah party.

"The last week attack against Iranian territory by Turkish helicopters is a clear token of plots by Zionist circles against Iran as much as it betrays hostility with the Islamically-oriented cabinet of Refah party. The same circles with a leverage with the Armed Forces of Turkey which now feel threats to their status may as well have been the designers and engineers of the attack with the idea of creating friction between Erbekan's cabinet and Iran.

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Before taking power, Erbekan had frequently reiterated his intention to create a cooperation between Turkey and Muslim governments in preference to the cooperation between Turkey and the West and Turkey and the Zionist government.

"Also worthy of note, is the timing of the attack that was simultaneous with certain maneuvers by anti-Iran circles with Turkish leadership and with other regional developments such opposition of Iran and Syria to Turkey's military accords with the Zionist regime, the deployment of Turkish Armed forces along Syrian borders, Turkey's interference in developments in northern Iraq, and Iran's interest to collaborate with Syria, Greece, and the Republic of Armenia.

"The same circles in Turkey are trying to warn Iran and Syria against blocking Turkey's political maneuvers in the region, and against forming an Iran-Arabs pact that will stand against the political and economic expansionism of Turkey and the Zionist regime.

"What position should Iran's diplomacy adopt in the face of the situation? All experience has shown that verbal condemnations of such behaviors have long since discontinued to be effectual. The adoption by Iran of laissez-faires policies and her leniency towards the various maneuvers of Zionist circles has fallen short of bringing positive results.

"The U.S. plan to create tension and friction between Iran and her neighbors has been entrusted to clumsy engineers to carry out so that the plan is now a weapon in the hands of anti-Iranian elements in neighboring countries, who do not seem to worry about any contingent reaction by Iran.

The same circles, aware of Iran's rejection of tension with her neighbors, are testing Iran's reaction to their regional policies by indulging in such acts as they did recently.

"To make those circles in Turkey revise their hostile policies towards Iran it will be worth the while for us to redefine the extent of our leniency within the framework of our commitment to maintaining minimum good relations with neighbors.

To protect ourselves from stumbling into the ditch of the so- called isolation dug for us by the United States and the Zionist regime, we must decide on how we are going to respond to such shamelessly audacious acts as that of last week's air raid against our civilian citizens."

Iran: Review of Country's Policy on Turkey Urged

NC0107084296 Tehran SALAM in Persian 20 Jun 96 p 16

[Commentary by M. Ja'fari: "Zionism's Arm from Ankara's Sleeve"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent developments in Turkey's foreign relations, that is, the repetition of raids on northern Iraq on the pretext of crushing the opposition Kurds there, the signing of a military cooperation agreement with the Zionist regime, and instigation against Syria, all sound a knell for the country's foreign policy officials and are proof that the current position on Ankara is wrong.

The Ankara regime signed the wretched and binding military agreement with the Zionist regime—the enemy of the Muslim people of Turkey and of all other Muslims—at a time of political instability in Turkey and in a bid to allow the pro-Washington ruling faction to rob the future government of Turkey of the possibility of adopting any independent policy. Especially after the spectacular victory of the Welfare Party in the Turkish parliamentary elections, the Muslim people of Turkey had the opportunity to demand that their government gradually adopt an independent foreign policy, reduce its dependence on foreigners, and cultivate more friendships with the other Muslim nations.

We would not be wrong in saying that one reason for the Turkish rulers' haste in signing the disgraceful agreements with the aggressive Zionist regime was their concern that such illegitimate demands could not be met in future.

Apparently the joint need felt by Tel Aviv and Washington to speed up the Middle East compromise process dictates that they use every type of pressure against the Arabs, especially Syria.

So we see how—in view of the record of political tension between Damascus and Ankara, especially over the waters of the Euphrates— Turkey's instigation has recently intensified such that it has led to a military buildup on Syria's common border with it.

Naturally, America calculates that by feeling Turkey's pressure, Syria will come to terms with the Zionist regime, because a political confrontation with Turkey will hurt Syria. This is what the enemies of anti-Israeli resistance want.

So we see that at this most sensitive time for the Muslims in the region Turkey has been made to take a dangerous gamble and resorted to an unexpected maniacal act.

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Important amid all this is that with the great treason perpetrated by its leaders, Turkey is making it more difficult to make up for its mistakes. It is as though the leadership of Turkey's foreign policy and the national security affairs of Muslim Turkey have been taken over by a bunch of Zionists. At such a critical time the interests and respect of the Turkish nation are being sacrificed for its rulers' greed.

The question is: How to prevent the continuation of this maniacal policy by Turkey? Apparently, the first step is to correctly understand the current situation and to study and review Tehran-Ankara relations at various points since the victory of the revolution and then to adopt new policies that will ensure interests and thwart potential threats.

Iran: Commentary Critical Over Handling of Turkey-Iran Relations

LD0107200696 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 29 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "What is Turkey doing?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the Middle East, 1996 has begun with several incidents: the Sharm al-Shaykh session, the Israeli offensive in south Lebanon, the military pact between Ankara and Tel Aviv, the replacement of Peres with Netanyahu, and finally the Cairo session.

The evidence shows that the Israeli regime intends to take charge of security institutions in the region and Ankara is obviously duty- bound to implement its commitments in this respect. There are three countries in the front line and all three are Turkish neighbors: The Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Iraq. At present Baghdad prefers to suppress the Kurds, therefore, it only resorts to condemning the Turkish aggression-seeking behavior.

Syria knows that the water war has not yet become a crisis and that when peace is established in the region, the issue of water will possibly resolved within that framework.

However, the Islamic Republic of Iran is like an investment for Turkey. Turkey benefits from our enmity with the West. It receives aid and launches missiles every now and then to show off its power and receives rewards for it.

Turkey knows that it cannot be compared with Iran in any way. In addition, it wishes that Iran should never resolve its problems with the West so that this does not weaken Turkey's position and importance.

The officials in charge of our country's foreign policy have not taken this Turkish "investment" that seriously. If it had been the case the incident on Thursday [27 June] would have never been repeated. Turkey has still not given any explanation for the similar incident that occurred two years ago.

Is this patience with Turkey strategy or tactical? What aim does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pursue by this lax attitude? If Turkey is a friend of Iran, then why does it act in this way? If it is an enemy why doesn't it receive a suitable reaction?

A diplomacy based on expediency will not bear any fruit it will only make the enemy bold. Can the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tell the people if the incident on Thursday had occurred from our country, what the Turkish response would have been? It seems that Turkey has come to the conclusion that the region is its arena of activities [julangah]. With this patience our Foreign Ministry is allowing Turks to remain under this illusion. If this is the case, then please tell people not to ask questions and not to be concerned.

Iran: Commentary Views New Turkish Government Coalition

LD2906085796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0350 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After three weeks of talks, Necmettin Erbakan, the leader of the Welfare Party, finally reached an agreement with the True Path Party, led by Tansu Ciller. The agreement has effectively ended six months of political instability in Turkey. [passage omitted]

It seems that Erbakan needed a coalition with the True Path Party for two reasons. First, due to legal reasons, he was not able to form a united government because, of the 286 parliamentary seats needed to pass a vote of confidence, his party only had 158 seats. Second, for strategic reasons, he needed to become the Turkish prime minister for a period of time, even without control over key ministries.

In any case, at the moment, most Turkish towns and cities are governed by elected mayors representing the Welfare Party. According to estimates, over two thirds of the Turkish urban population are governed by the Welfare Party. Despite this, due to intense propaganda, the Turkish Army, press, industrialists, and economic and financial forums were all frightened of an Erbakan-led government. This sense of fear has always acted as a major obstacle for the Welfare Party.

Therefore, it is not very important how long the coalition government lasts. Instead, the important point is that

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Erbakan and the Welfare Party should prove themselves to be an efficient and responsible entity, so as to pave the way for winning the vote of the majority of people.

Iran: Tehran Radio on Visit by Syria's al-Shar'

LD3006133196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a short visit to our country, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' discussed international issues with our country's authorities while submitting a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During the visit, the need was stressed for all-round efforts by Iran and Syria to strengthen the positions of the Islamic states and create peace and stability in the region. Syria and Iran — two important and influential states in the region — have strategic and strong ties with each other. The Syrian foreign minister's visit to Iran, coming after the recent developments in occupied Palestine — the succession to power by the Likud party — and shortly after the Arab summit, is an effort to strengthen those ties further under the new conditions.

The new Zionist regime prime minister's plans given to the compromising [Arab] states show that the compromise process is, in practice, built on sand. That is why Syria succeeded, with its effective efforts, in pulling the Arab states toward cooperation among themselves and in the direction of confronting Tel Aviv's fresh expansionism. Although, in parallel with that, there were strong diversionary efforts aimed at neutralizing the Arab summit, eventually most experts identified Syria as the winner at that summit.

After establishing coordination among Arab states, Syria is now trying to review its ties with Iran, the most effective in confronting the Zionist regime's expansionism. Despite all the coordination which has taken place between Syria and the Arab states, Syria needs to maintain and expand its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. That is why, bearing in mind that Iran was the subject in a section of the final statement of the Arab summit, it is necessary for Syria's diplomacy to explain this issue to the Iranian authorities. Of course, at the Arab summit, Damascus was against including a section which smacked of opposing Iran. This country believed Iran to be a strong dam blocking the Zionists, and considers undermining Iran to be to the benefit of the Zionist regime.

Some political analysts believe Faruq al-Shar''s visit to Bahrain after his visit to Tehran to be a move for eliminating the misunderstandings by the smaller Arab states concerning Iran, in order to obviate any pretext in the region for forming ranks against Iran and to direct all efforts toward confronting aggressive Israeli policies. America and the Zionist regime are trying for the exact opposite to happen. That is why, if Syria succeeds in this, it will have another success to its name — following the Arab summit — in mustering resources for confronting the Zionist regime.

Iran: Velayati Says Syria Mediating Disputes With Bahrain, UAE

JN0107064696 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni in Tehran]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that Syria is attempting to heal the rift and end the misunderstanding between Iran and Bahrain and also between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Velayati said: We are concerned about direct dialogue and enhancing bilateral cooperation with the UAE.

Velayati added: We have confidence in Syria's sincerity and true intentions toward us and toward Arab issues. We expect the current Syrian initiative to succeed.

The Iranian minister, who was speaking at a news conference, noted that the contents of Syrian President al-Asad's message to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', focused on ways to coordinate positions in order to confront the newly powerful extreme right wing in Israel and its expansionist intentions toward Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians.

Within this context, Dr. Velayati said that Tehran has announced its support for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Iran will not accept any solution to the Palestine question at the expense of the Palestinians' inalienable rights, he added.

The Iranian foreign minister stressed that the passage of time can never justify the continuation of occupation or grant it any legitimacy whatsoever.

Iran: Damascus Reports Velayati Talks With Syrian Foreign Minister

JN0107191496 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati today.

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Attending the talks on the Syrian side were Raslan 'Allush, assistant foreign minister; Ahmad Saqr, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Desk; and Ahmad al-Hasan, Syria's ambassador in Tehran. The talks were attended on the Iranian side by Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, assistant foreign minister; Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director of the Arab Homeland Desk; and Mahmud Hashemi, adviser to the foreign minister.

During the meeting, the Iranian side expressed appreciation for the Syrian efforts to clear the atmosphere between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the State of Bahrain in particular, and between Iran and the Gulf states in general.

Iran: Syrian Foreign Minister on Bahrain, Turkey

LD0107193596 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jul. 1, IRNA — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said here today that Bahraini officials are willing to remove the impediments existing in their relations with Islamic Iran.

Al-Shar', who arrived here Monday afternoon from Manama, told IRNA that "during my talks in Bahrain, the Bahraini officials including the amir of Bahrain expressed satisfaction with the statements of Iranian officials regarding regional security and stability."

He said that during talks he felt improvement in relations between Iran and Bahrain, and added that such a development will have a positive affect on relations between the Islamic republic and other Arab states.

This is the second visit of the Syrian foreign minister to Tehran this week. Al-Shar' was here last Saturday with a message for President Rafsanjani from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Later he left Tehran for Manama, Bahrain.

Bahrain, which is in the grip of a popular movement for restoration of the parliament of that country, has launched a wave of mass arrests and tried to put the blame for its internal trouble at Iran's door.

The Islamic republic which has refuted all such allegations, has repeatedly offered its good offices to the authorities in Bahrain to mediate in the dispute between the government and the opposition.

On the role of Islamic Iran in regional developments, he said "Iran plays a key role in strengthening security and stability in the region. This (Iran's) important role draws attention not only from Syria and Arab states but from all world countries."

In contrast to the negative reports of certain vested interests, said al-Shar', the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region is based on international norms and U.N. regulations.

On relations between Syria and Turkey, he said that "without doubt the relations between Turkey and Arab-Islamic countries have become rather cold following the military accord between Turkey and the Zionist entity."

He expressed hope that with the recent coming to power of a new government in Turkey led by Necmettin Erbakan who had a positive stance during the recent general elections in that country, Ankara's relations with Damascus and with other Arab-Islamic countries, would return to normal.

"If the Turkish Government bases its foreign policy on the real interests of its Muslim people, no problem will arise between Ankara and the Arab states," added the Syrian foreign minister.

Al-Shar' was received by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad airport.

Iran: Syria's al-Shar' Praises Iran's Stabilizing Role in Region

LD0107213196 Tehran IRNA in English 2109 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA — In a meeting here this evening with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the good intentions of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards its neighbors was instrumental in building security and stability in the region.

Calling Iran a "big Islamic country", he pointed out that Iran plays an importance role in the strengthening of regional security and stability and that it attaches great importance to neighbourly relations and cooperation with the regional Arab states.

Al-Shar' arrived in Tehran from Manama, Bahrain, Monday afternoon on his second visit to the Islamic republic this week. In Manama, he held talks with ranking officials including the amir of Bahrain, and underlined the need to improve Iran-Bahrain relations.

Al-Shar' summed up his talks with the Bahraini officials as "positive".

The Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers also exchanged veiws on issues of mutal interest and termed Tehran-Damascus friendly relations strengthens regional cooperation.

Velayati in reply, reiterated that maintaining good neighborly relations and strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries was among the principles of Iran's foreign policy.

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He stressed the need to avoid any tension and misunderstanding in the relations between regional states.

He said that the regional tensions and misunderstandings are due to the provocations of outsiders and will benefit the enemies of the Muslim countries.

Underlining the need for building further trust and solidarity among the Muslim countries, Velayati said that strengthening of such relations would thwart the machinations of the enemies of Islam.

Towards the end of his talks the Iranian foreign minister praised the political efforts and good intentions of Syrian officials undertaking the bid to improve Tehran-Manama relations.

The Bahraini Government, faced with a popular unrest for restoration of the suspended parliament, has launched a wave of mass arrests and tried to put the blame at Iran's doors for its internal troubles.

The Islamic republic has refuted Bahrain's allegations as "groundless", and offered its good offices to mediate in the dispute between the government and the Bahraini opposition, in the interests of regional peace and stability.

Bahrain is yet to respond to Iran's good neighborly offer.

Iran: Syria's al-Shar' Gives Rafsanjani Message From al-Asad

LD0207103896 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, who is in Tehran, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. At the meeting he delivered to our country's president a message from Mr. Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian president. He said: Syria praises the Islamic Republic of Iran for its constructive role in establishing stability and calm in the Persian Gulf region, which can neutralize the evil and colonialistic goals of foreign enemies in the region.

He also thanked Iran for its sincere cooperation with Syria to bring about friendship and peaceful coexistence between the countries in the region and prevent the adverse conditions which foreign enemies seek in the region.

At the meeting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Syria for its humanitarian efforts. He stressed: Iran has always followed a policy of establishing peace and stability and good neighborly relations with regional countries, without the interference and mischief of foreigners. He added: We desire friendly and Islamic cooperation between regional countries and the maintenance of stability and peace with the participation of all friendly and neighbouring countries.

Iran: Velayati—Syria Helped Improve Iran-Egypt Relations

LD0207110996 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that in the light of the present circumstances in the Middle East, "Irano-Egyptian cooperation will accelerate at regional and international issues." In an interview with the English daily 'IRAN NEWS' Tuesday, he noted that Syria is trying to create a coordinated front among the Muslim countries particularly in the region to counter a common enemy.

Syria is trying to prepare the ground for coordination and cooperation between Iran and Arab countries, he said adding, Syria is also trying to bring foreign relations of Tehran and Damascus closer on the Middle Eastern issues. "During the last few years, relations between Iran and Egypt have improved and Syria played an effective role in the process," Velayati concluded.

Iran: Syria's al-Shar' Meets President, Velayati, Departs

JN0207140596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran—Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation here this morning. They reviewed efforts to clear the atmosphere between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the State of Bahrain in light of their willingness to enhance security and stability in the region and to build a unified position for the Arab and Islamic countries in the face of the current challenges.

Al-Shar' left Tehran for Bahrain today after meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He was seen off by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, several of his aides, and Syrian Ambassador to Iran Ahmad al-Hasan.

Dr. Velayati expressed his country's appreciation for the sincere efforts Syria is making to clear up differences in the region and build a unified position for the Arab and Islamic countries in the face of the current challenges.

In a statement to SANA today, Dr. Velayati said that al-Shar' visited Tehran twice within the past 48 hours and conveyed a letter to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with Syrian efforts to eliminate misunderstandings between the Islamic

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Republic of Iran and the State of Bahrain and to resolve other issues that have recently surfaced between the two countries.

Dr. Velayati described Syria's efforts to clear the air in the region as persistent, valuable, and sincere. He said there efforts show the credibility of the Syrian officials, who are interested in both bilateral and regional cooperation, expressing hope that al- Shar' visits to Tehran and Manama will be successful.

Iran: Possible War Between Syria-Turkey; Israel's Role Seen

NC0107103196 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Jun 96 pp 3, 14

[Commentary by A. Salaheddin: "The Dream They Have Dreamed for the Middle East?!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Wars in the past were generally known as religious wars. Of course there were nonreligious reasons and objectives involved. But all these were portrayed as being religious in nature—in one way or another.

In the new era wars are fought for material reasons and objectives. But religious beliefs too enter the scene because people do not want to die in wars without a religious cause. [passage omitted]

We are saying this because preparations might be in the making for another war in the Middle East. This war is being prepared in the satanic laboratories of world Zionism and the merchants of death. Today people on both sides are being prepared for such a war and forces are being arrayed against each other. Reports speak of a military buildup on both sides of common borders and of military preparations for a full-fledged war. [passage omitted]

We are speaking about the possibility of a war between Turkey and Syria.

The Zionist Israeli regime has brought all the Arab regimes, except Syria, to their knees.

Among these regimes, Syria alone is resisting the Zionists and is refusing the imposed peace. Under such conditions Israel wants to force Syria to surrender. So it is further upsetting relations between Syria and Turkey. The Turkish regime too is fanning the flames of all this on the basis of the theory of the "war of water" in the Middle East in the century ahead and by reducing the flow of the water of the Tigris and Euphrates toward Syria and Iraq. Iraq and Syria, which owe their existence to these two rivers, will react to restrictions. Thus Turkey—with the cooperation of Israel—will try to justify things to its Muslim people by claiming: "The country is being threatened therefore we can cooperate with Israel! We are facing various threats from all sides. On the one side there is Greece. On the other side there is northern Iraq and Syria. On another side..." Even scholars are preparing decrees that speak of defending their people's respect—to be issued when necessary. All the while both sides refer to Islam and to religion but the truth is that both sides are acting on the basis of secularism.

Syria is trying to make the Arab countries rally round it and the Arab League appears to have given the green light, saying it will stand next to Syria until the end. In other words, you have Arab sentiments. And Turkey is boosting nationalistic feelings. In other words, it is boosting pan-Turkism. Under such conditions the possibility of the Islamists coming to power in Turkey will upset every calculation, because all these games and plots are rejected by Islam. And if the Islamists realize this, they can thwart all the plots. This is why Israeli President Weizman blatantly expressed his wishes in Istanbul last week, saying: "I do not think Turkish President Demirel and the Turkish Army will help the Welfare Party come to power... They will not let this happen."

Had some other head of a Middle East country made these remarks, it would undoubtedly have caused a great commotion in the mass media. But in response to these comments and even Weizman's blatant intervention, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said only: "This is Weizman's personal opinion!" In other words, it tried to upset Israel as little as possible!

This is because these days Turkey considers its cooperation with Israel more necessary than ever, particularly to confront Syria. It is trying to convince Turkey that to overcome the problems with the Workers Party of Kurdistan there is no alternative, but war with Syria!

In turn, Syria considers the recent military agreement between Israel and Turkey to be directed against it, because, in the event of war, Turkey and Israel will surround Syria, from the north and south.

The Turkish regime has prepared and is preparing the public for this. Similar calculations have always been made inside the Zionist regime, something that has been clearly shown by the coming to power of Netanyahu and the non-return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Thus the Middle East's future is not clear. And it is not clear what tragedy awaits it. It is also important to see whether, in the event of war, the Arab countries will support Syria or not.

But one thing is clear: If this plot is hatched, Muslim blood will be shed for satanic objectives.

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Iran: Bahrain Seen as 'Infuriated' by 'Amicable' Iranian Stance

NC2806192496 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 13 Jun 96 pp 1, 15

["Weekly Analysis:" "Iran's Amicable Reaction Has Angered the Bahraini Regime Further"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the Bahrain regime's accusations of Iran have resulted in downgrading bilateral diplomatic relations and led to the recall of the two countries' ambassadors, these hostile actions have failed to prevent the Iranian Government from relinquishing its amicable stance. In the past few weeks the Iranian Government has repeatedly displayed its goodwill.

Dr. Velayati proposed that Iran is willing to mediate between the Manama government and its opponents and the Iranian deputy foreign minister also announced that Iran is prepared to send a delegation to Bahrain to investigate the accusations by Manama of Iran's alleged involvement in recent unrest there.

Iran's policy shows poise and restraint in the face of a harsh and infuriated Manama government. This has heightened the Manama government's rage such that a publication affiliated with the Bahraini Government wrote in reaction to our foreign minister's offer of goodwill that the capital of Bahrain is Manama, not Tehran!

The Bahraini Government almost wants Iran to display a strong and illogical reaction to its accusations so that it can capitalize on it to distract public opinion in Bahrain and influence international political and news circles.

The immense impotence and anger of the Bahraini Government becomes even more evident when you see that, despite its planned propagandist charades, international political and news circles, especially the Arab media and even its Arab neighbors, unanimously declare that the Bahraini unrest has its roots entirely in the internal situation and that ascribing it to extraneous factors will not unravel the knot of the crisis for the Bahraini Government.

Iran: Britain's Accusations on Bahrain Criticized

NC2906064796 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 23 Jun 96 pp 1, 11

[Political commentary: "Britain's Political Games in the Arab Shaykhdoms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Remarks by some Western officials against the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially when they visit the Arab littoral countries of the Persian Gulf, are not a new phenomenon. On most occasions, such remarks are for commercial consumption and to boost the sale of armaments. Hence, the remarks by one of the British assistant foreign secretaries in Bahrain also comes under this category.

However, the point that merits noting in this regard is that, first of all, these remarks were made in Bahrain—a country which is in the throes of a tempest of internal opposition. Its regime accuses Iran of supporting its opponents.

Second, these remarks are being made by a government official of a country which itself is the political center for the congregation of Bahraini dissidents. The groups opposed to the Bahraini regime have an office in London, not in Tehran!

The Westerners, and the British in particular, are among the countries that usually seek to swindle both sides involved in any conflict! On one hand, their military and security advisers are involved in the directing and guiding the suppression of popular, freedom-seeking movements in Third world countries—and in this instance, in Bahrain—and on the other hand, they provide the facilities and permits for the presence and political activities of the leaders of these movements in their own country. In this manner they seek to motivate Third world regimes to extend political and economic privileges to them!

A few days ago, during his visit to Bahrain, the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Jeremy Hanley—in unison with the joint propaganda of Manama and Washington—accused Iran of supporting terrorism and inciting violence in the Persian Gulf region, and in a patronizing tone, he asked Iran to stop such actions!

This is even though most of the international, even Arab political analysts and circles believe that Bahrain's unrest has erupted spontaneously from domestic roots and foreign affiliations play no role in it. Even though the remarks of this British Foreign Office official have been stated with the aim of placating the Manama officials, there is no doubt that during this trip the British Government has been able to furnish the preliminaries for signing a security and arms deal, which is taken by London as the reward for its remarks.

However, one may note at this time as well that the London officials capitalized on the Manama regime's accusations against Iran, made to mask their own performance, which had recently come under severe criticism from the Arab shaykhdoms. The crisis between Britain and Saudi Arabia can also be viewed within this framework, as recently the Riyadh officials vehemently criticized the presence of some of their political activists in London to the extent that Riyadh sought to boycott

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some British companies in retaliation for the London government's stance.

What is interesting is that the British Government—which is under pressure from internal political groups and public opinion due to its posturing on human rights and democracy—could not accede to Riyadh's demands, and found the best recourse in attacking Iran! Some time ago, the British ambassador in Saudi Arabia also accused Iran of interference in the internal affairs of its neighboring countries.

Hence, in the face of similar objections by the Manama officials, the British are repeating the same prefabricated remarks. John Major's assistant foreign secretary is voicing feeble excuses in the face of serious demands by the Manama echelons on why London is permitting the opponents of the Bahraini regime to indulge in political activity by saying: "The British Government is in the process of reviewing its refugee laws and it is possible that in the future the residence of dissident groups will not be welcomed in the country." In order to pacify the immature Manama leaders, he laced his remarks with a series of utterances against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The point worth mentioning here is that instead of issuing a statement against London, the Bahraini officials are targeting Tehran, as they know that the world community and the international propaganda apparatus—which is under the monopoly of the Zionists and Westerners—will not be on their side if Bahrain accuses London or issues a statement against it. Instead, by using their extensive power and influence, they would malign the Manama regime.

In order to find a way to deflect its internal crisis, the Bahraini regime has resorted to following the recommendations of the Americans and the Zionists. Of course, the international and Western media are assisting them in their propaganda to the utmost.

Iran: Ministry Adviser Views Ties to Middle Eastern Countries

LD3006095596 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jun 30 (IRNA) — Advisor to the foreign minister 'Ali Vahid Khorram voiced Iran's willingness to promote ties with Middle East countries.

In an interview with the English daily TEHRAN TIMES on Sunday, Khorram said although Iran and Egypt have no diplomatic relations, common regional interests may bring them closer in the international arena.

Stating that there were no plans at present between the two countries to reciprocate the Tel Aviv-Ankara Military Pact, he said mutual interest may bring them closer together.

Turning to Egypt's part in the Camp David Accord, he said resumption of official diplomatic relations between the two countries would depend on developments as assessed by their top officials.

Touching on Iran's proposal to declare the Middle East as a nuclear weapons free zone, he said Iran favors making the Persian Gulf and the Pacific region free from any kind of weapons of mass destruction.

Iran strictly maintains that nuclear weapons do not have applicability, he said, adding that Israel's refusal to accept the nuclear non-proliferation treaty stems from U.S. support for the Zionist regime.

"The United States should take initial steps to curb the Zionist regime's accumulation of nuclear weapons and be responsive to criticism raised by many in the region," he said.

Asked about Jordan's reported demand from Syria to sever its ties with Iran, Khorram said there was not sufficient information to confirm the report. However, he stipulated that Jordan had been coordinating its policies with those of the Zionist regime during the recent years.

Touching on the resolution of the recent Arab Summit in Cairo on the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, Khorram said the decisions made by the participants is "purely unilateral that could not bind a non-Arab state."

Stressing Iran's readiness to defend every inch of its territory, he voiced Iran's willingness to continue talks with the United Arab Emirates to iron out misundertandings that have resulted in agitating one country against the other.

Asked about normalization of Tehran-Baghdad ties, Khorram said the mistrust created as a result of the imposed war has resulted in a loss of confidence on the part of one towards the other.

The advisor to the foreign minister stressed that normalization of ties required a joint effort by the two sides to restore a climate of trust.

"Time will help heal the prevailing climate of mistrust aggravated by regional and trans-regional events which hinder Iraq from making a positive response to certain Iranian projects," he said.

Turning to the so-called Middle East peace talks, he said Iran has consistently believed that the United States cannot be an effective broker for peace in the region and that the plan was doomed to fail.

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"The accord has bartered away the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and has overlooked the rights of other Arab countries as well, and was thus bound to fail — sooner or later," he said.

Touching on Washingtons efforts to keep France and Russia on the sideline, he said the two governments managed to put forward their national interests in the Middle East issues.

He mentioned the attack on southern Lebanon by the Zionist regime forces on which both France and Russia took independent stances.

Referring to allegations leveled by Bahrain accusing Iran of involvement in the domestic unrest in Bahrain in recent months, Khorram said Bahrain is under foreign pressure to pin the blame on outside countries.

Denying Iran's involvement, he said Bahrain can always call on a mediator if it was of the view that Iran was able to exert influence on its opposition.

"Iran could act as the mediator itself but does not insist on being so as it will act only upon Bahrain's request," he said adding, "if Manama insists that those who fight for their legitimate rights are being dictated to by Tehran, Iran will accept a third party — a common friend of the two countries — to negotiate and resolve the accusations."

Iran: SAFF on Military Strategy of Israel

96LA0226A Tehran SAFF in Persian
No 189, Jan-Feb 96 pp 18-21

[Article by Shahram Shahvardi: "Israel's Military Structure and Strategy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Introduction**

The discussion about Israel and the Zionist regime's strategy actually has special importance because the Israel regime's success, and right in the heart of the Arab nation, is no accident; it is the result of planning and programs. These programs include the Zionist strategy based on expansionist ideas with unlimited imperialist support, as well as the lack of an Arab strategy with specific and clear goals.

Basically, Israel's strategy is based on clear and flexible principles which are brought into the service of its goals at various times. Therefore, in order to have methods for opposing it, it is necessary to make use of a unified and harmonious strategy which has the ability to resist and liberate the occupied territories. For various reasons, the this strategy has come to a complete standstill.

One must realize that Zionism is not an independent movement. It has emerged with the aid of the imperialist powers in Europe. In reality, Israel is the child of the growth of the Jewish bourgeoisie at the end of the 19th century in Europe and America, and the support of the Jewish bourgeoisie caused this movement to expand.

The present study is an effort to clarify Israel's military structure and strategy.

The Israeli Army was formed after this nation's declaration of independence was issued on 26 May 1948. The formation of this army was in reality an answer to Israel's need to defend something the Jews had made much effort to obtain. After this army was established, it went through a period of transformation through four famous wars with the Arabs in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973, using new methods in war with which they added to their experience and capabilities.

The military structure of the Israeli Army, like that of many other armies in the world, consists of three main forces: the infantry, the air force, and the navy. The infantry itself has four [as published] separate forces which have independent commands. These forces are the southern, central, and northern infantries. In general, the Israeli Army has an organization which is itself under the command of the chief of staff and the acting chief of staff. The command staff itself operates under the supervision of the minister of defense and is considered to be responsible to him.[1]

A basic issue with respect to the Israeli Army is this nation's vast and precise use of a reserve system. Usually 70 percent of the army is reserve forces, and only 30 percent of the individuals are permanent military personnel. The reserve forces can be mobilized in 48 to 72 hours, and after such a period of time the army can go into action at its full capacity.

The Air Force of the Army of Israel is always on alert status, and it maintains 100 percent capability for any kind of operation. The Israeli Navy is the smallest part of this nation's defense forces, and on the budget list it has the smallest part of the budget allocated to it.

Israel has succeeded in forming the world's largest army proportionate to its population. The Israeli Army can field about 400,000 people out of a population of 3 million. Israel also relies on its Air Force, its military units, and the services of its advanced intelligence organization and is determined to use certain very advanced weapons in its army. One such thing that could be mentioned as an example is its Phantom aircraft, equipped with computerized electronic equipment, which is not even used by its pilots during the reserve cycle.[2]

The Israeli Army's military and arms industries have shown a striking and extraordinary evolution. Their production of various types of Markva [as transliterated]

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tanks and surface-to-surface missiles is itself considered an important step. With regard to the Air Force, this nation's military industries are already producing various models of Kfir fighter aircraft.[3] With regard to the Navy, the production of fast, missile-equipped assault boats of various classes is considered a noteworthy success in this nation's industries.

Israel's infantry has 130,000 personnel, and to this figure must also be added 310,000 reserves. The Air Force has 30,000 regular personnel and 50,000 reserves, while the Navy has 9,000 regular personnel and 1,000 reserves. Men serve for up to 36 months as soldiers, while for women service is for two years.

Another important issue concerning Israel's Army is its nuclear forces. It is already using two atomic reactors. Researchers believe that Israel has more than 100 nuclear warheads.[4] Israel's most important atomic power plant is al-Nabi Rubin, which went into operation in November 1966. Under current programs, its capability will reach about 200 megawatts. In addition to its primary purpose, which is to produce nuclear weapons, this power plant is also used to desalinate water and produce electricity.[5] Despite all this, however, one must never overlook the level of aid to Israel from other countries in the world, especially the United States of America. There are two basic instances in this regard that can be mentioned: the transfer of technology and financial aid.[6]

Israel's Strategy

A discussion of Israel's strategy requires an understanding of the goals which are of vital importance to Israel. Strategy is the art of using an aggregate of political and military means in the service of a country's specific national goals within a specific period of time. Israel's military strategy can therefore be summarized in the following points:

1. Security and secure borders: Israel's strategy is based on two related factors, Israel's security and secure borders. Maintaining secure borders is the primary focus of Israel's foreign policy, and this is used to justify expansionism and retaining possession of occupied lands.

2. Preventing Arab unity: One of the most important goals in Israel's military strategy is preventing unity among the Arab governments, especially among those sharing borders with Israel. Every time a military or political union forms between two or more Arab nations, or if they form a joint military command, Israel prepares itself for an attack to destroy that unity. Thus Israel tries to take every opportunity where the Middle East is an issue to sow discord among the Arab governments.[7]

3. Keeping the Arabs out of war: If the ability of the Arabs were mobilized and organized, Israel would not have the power to stand up and engage them in a long-term war. For this reason, one of the main objectives in Israel's military strategy is to keep the Arabs from getting into war and using their forces.

4. Maintaining the balance of power: One of the basic objectives in Israel's military strategy is to maintain the balance of power [8] between Israel and the Arab nations surrounding it. Whenever Israel thinks that this balance is being upset in the interest of the Arabs and that its Arab neighbors have obtained greater power than Israel, especially in the area of arms, they start a vast war.

In addition to these instances, however, it must be mentioned that the probability of Arab unity, the condition of neither war nor peace, Arab superiority in terms of population and finance, and ultimately the lack of a profound strategy on Israeli soil keeps this nation's leaders from taking the following steps:

1. Self-sufficiency in military affairs: The matter of self-sufficiency in military and security affairs has always been a primary and very important thesis for the leaders of the Zionist regime. This doctrine, which was set forth by Ben Gurion as the principle of relying on ourselves, was established up until the formation of the Israeli Government in 1948[9] in Hagana, or the Jewish army stationed in occupied Palestine. After that too, this country's self-sufficiency was demonstrated in its effort to develop its military industries.

2. The doctrine of the silent war: The condition of neither war nor peace which prevailed in Israel-Arab relations for many years was called the silent war by Yitzhak Rabin. What is certain in the eyes of the Zionist political and military leaders is that under no circumstances are the Arabs willing to accept the existence of the Israeli regime and that they will continue the war with Israel in any way possible. Therefore Israel's military and political leaders see the military strategy established by this regime in the framework of protecting this country.[10]

3. The Arab containment strategy: The use of military forces as a means in the hands of Israel's political planners without making practical use of it has been an issue among Israel's leaders. The idea of using military forces as a containment factor was in the minds of this regime's leaders even before the Zionist regime was formed, because in those years they were compiling a political strategy without giving up the doctrine of the use of military force. On the battlefield, they believed that they could achieve their political goals merely by increasing the military force and terrorizing the other side.

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4. Controlled use of military force: The exertion of control over military force is the essence of limited military operations. The principle of limited use of military force to achieve pre-defined political goals was used in Israel from the very beginning. Border clashes with some of the Arab nations and also the daily increasing influence of anti-Israeli guerrillas in that land via neighboring Arab countries caused the Zionist regime to adopt various measures and strategies. Two of the strategies adopted in this connection include the strategy of real security and the strategy of current security.

The strategy of real security means that Israel's security is threatened when it becomes possible for the armies of the neighboring Arab countries to destroy it completely in a classic war. In such circumstances, and in order to fight back, the Zionist regime's leaders have adopted the following two procedures:

1. creating a strong and aggressive military force with very high preparedness consisting of infantry, air, and naval forces;

2. due to the shortage of manpower, it is necessary to make maximum use of non-military forces known as army reserve forces. Israel's reserve soldiers have very high military capability and can be mobilized in a short time. However, with regard to current security it must be said that this security is being threatened by attacks from Palestinian guerrillas. The Israeli Government is therefore inclined to extract an incredibly high blood price for the blood of Israeli citizens to stop the attacks by the Palestinian guerrillas.[11]

There are other important and basic points which could be mentioned upon which Israel's military strategy relies greatly. The first principle Zionism thinks about is reliance on big government in such a way that the growth and development of this illegal upstart is taking place right in the heart of the Arab nation. In this way, reliance on a large government is one of the cornerstones of Israel's strategy. This diplomacy has played an important role in the Zionist strategy from the beginning of the movement until today. In this regard, one can mention examples such as establishing contacts for obtaining official recognition for the movement with the validation of the large governments, the issuance of an urgent declaration in 1917 and after that, obtaining a recommendation from the UN General Assembly on dividing Palestine in 1948, then forming the Zionist regime and making efforts to get it recognized again internationally, and also efforts to gain it membership in the UN after the British protectorate in May 1948.

Another major issue upon which Israel's strategy relies greatly is settling occupied lands. From the beginning of the migration to Palestine and the establishment of the first pioneer settlement, the Zionist regime has stressed the construction of armed settlements as an inseparable part of its regional defense strategy. The first foundation of this strategy was the establishment of settlements surrounded by defensive trenches, shelters, and barbed wire. This was the first edifice in this strategy. The quality of these settlements created by Israel was such that they became internationally famous in the service of world Zionism. They rendered impossible any kind of effort by the Arab armies to advance and engage with Israel's military forces. [12]

Another important issue to Israel's military strategy is its powerful intelligence system. To implement this principle, Israel set out to create a worthy intelligence system capable of cooperating with foreign intelligence systems that support Israel. Since the existence of a preemptive intelligence system is the first guarantee of victory in war, Israel tried to make this intelligence system active in political, economic, and military affairs. This intelligence system was put to use against the Arab governments and the Palestinian guerrilla organizations and to gain information about their secrets and existing capabilities. [13]

Other important principles in Israel's strategy include reliance on knowledge and technology. The scientific advances in Israel are used completely in the service of the Zionist strategy and to increase this regime's military capability. On this basis, war with Israel is a scientific battle. In every field and with every weapon in question, this matter requires a full understanding of Israel's scientific advances. Science and technique are among the most important principles upon which Israel's military strategy relies because this regime's superiority in this area makes up for its deficiencies and shortages in other areas. UNESCO statistics in the last decade and the statistics from international scientific unions and agencies confirm Israel's concern for science and technique.

Among the most important principles in Israel's strategy, one must mention propaganda and psychological warfare. Propaganda based on psychological warfare in a completely scientific form is one of the basic principles of Israel's strategy. Israel makes the most use of psychological warfare on the battlefield. In the beginning, Israeli forces distributed leaflets to make the Arab army hesitant about the competence of its command and to motivate it to surrender. It also tried to weaken enemy lines through the use of loud speakers. Israeli psychological warfare procedures rely on several principles:

1. creating doubt about a decisive Arab victory over Israel:

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2. portraying the Israeli Army as invincible;
3. creating doubt among army personnel about their commanders and among the people with respect to their political and military leaders.[14]

It is worth mentioning that psychological warfare techniques in the Arab armies and their means for propaganda, despite advances since the October 1973 war, are still at a very low level. It is therefore evident that Zionism uses all ways, means and methods possible to reinforce its defense and military base. It always adheres to these principles in order to thereby complement its military strategy.

Footnotes

1. Amir Mohammad Haji-Yusefi, *Israel's Foreign Policy in the Arab Middle East (1948 - 1973)* (graduating thesis, Imam Sadeq University) (Khordad 1368 [22 May - 21 June, 1989]), p 62.

2. Ghazi Esma'il Robabe'eh, *Israel's Strategy (1948-1967)*, translated by Mohammad Reza Fatemi (Tehran: Nashr-e Safir, 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990]), p. 138.

3. Kfir.

4. Haji-Yusefi, ibid., pp. 63-65; see also Amos Perlmutter, *The Military and Politics in Israel*, New York, 1969.

5. Robabe'eh, ibid., p. 144.

6. For further study on relations between America and Israel, see Steven Green, *Partisanship: Secret Relations between America and Israel*, translated by Soheil Rowhani (Tehran: Bonyad Printing and Publishing, 1368), p. 165.

7. To learn more about the Arabs, Israel, and the crisis in the Middle East, see: 'Ali Asghar Haj Seyyed Javadi, *The Arabs and Israel* (Javidan Publications, 2537); Hamid Ahmadi, *The Roots of the Crisis in the Middle East* (Tehran: Keyhan Institute Publications, 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991]).

8. Balance of Power.

9. To learn more about the composition of the Zionist regime, see: Hakim Hangavi, *Moshe Makhor, Akivavar, Israel's Society*, translated by 'Ali Keshtgar (Shabgir Publications, 1357 [21 March 1978 -20 March 1979]), p. 60; Ruzheh Garudi, *Israel and Political Zionism*, translated by Manuchehr Bayat-Mokhtari (Mashhad: Astan-e Qods-e Rezavi Publications, 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986]), pp. 12-25.

10. Haji-Yusefi, op. cit., p. 68.

11. Ibid., pp. 71-72.

12. Robabe'eh, op. cit., pp. 138-139.

13. Ibid., p. 141.

14. Ibid., p. 146.

Iran: Head of Political Ideology Interviewed

96LA0229A Tehran SAFF in Persian
No. 189, Jan-Feb 96 pp 26-27

[Interview with "chief of the Air Force Ideological-Political Directorate" by SAFF; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Looking at the ups and downs of history through the all-seeing eyes of those who have supported the establishment of justice and fairness, we conclude that the eternal flame of struggle, which has its roots in the essence of a pure Godly nature, has always followed the line of perpetuation and transmission, and its eternal light will never be diminished. The historic declaration of loyalty by Air Force personnel to our late imam on 19 Bahman 1357 [8 February 1979] is a special day on the bloody calendar of the Islamic Revolution, and it always has its special place.

[SAFF] Your excellency, as chief of the Air Force Ideological-Political Directorate, what do you think was the motivation for the historic declaration of loyalty by Air Force personnel at the peak of the shah's power in this force, and what do you think was the purpose of setting aside one of the days of the Ten Days Dawn Celebration as Air Force Day?

[Chief] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: with greetings and prayers to the sacred presence of His Holiness the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent), with praise to the victorious soul of the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam, and the good souls of the martyrs, and with greetings to the exalted leader, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

In answer to your question, I must say that the personnel of the Air Force, because of this force's special composition and characteristics, have very high awareness and insight. For this reason, when the demonstrations by the brave and heroic nation of Iran against the shah reached their peak, the Air Force personnel also, despite the mood in the army, cut off their ties to the idolaters after being in the presence of the great leader of the revolution at his home and stood in the ranks of faith and unity. This day is important because it is a turning point in the history of the struggles by the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran and the Air Force. It must always be kept alive and immortal. This declaration of loyalty took the mask off the face of the hypocrites. It disgraced them

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and accelerated the triumph of the Islamic revolution. The sweet memories of the days of blood and uprising are hidden from no one, and they will never be erased from our memories. It is for this reason that during the splendid days of the Ten Days Dawn Celebration, 19 Bahman has been set aside as Air Force Day, and this is an honor for the Air Force.

[SAFF] As you said, the cooperation and empathy between the personnel of the Air Force in the people's struggles against the oppressive monarchy, their courageous and sincere presence in guarding and protecting the gains of the Islamic revolution in the first days of the victor, and also the presentation of thousands of martyrs and wounded veterans in the epic struggles of the combatants of Islam at the battlefronts of the True against the False, brought on deep spiritual and intellectual changes among Air Force personnel and in the Armed Forces' organizational structures. Even now, as we are on the threshold of the 18th dawn of freedom, please tell us about the most important activities of the Air Force Political-Ideological Directorate during the era of reconstruction.

[Chief] Among the measures that were taken for the sake of the designated policy in the thick of the imposed war, there was a need for a compiled law inspired by the rich and genuine Islamic culture, which included the strategic goals and military doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This law was given intense attention by the Defense Commission of the Majles, and based on it the mission and organizational structure and the manpower of the army were specified. The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran Law enacted in Tir 1366 [22 June - 22 July] by the Majles and its implementation completely eliminated the discrimination and discord arising from the oppressive monarchy. The fragrant spirit of Islamic laws filled the atmosphere in the army with purity and sincerity.

One of the tools that was able to expedite this process in the army was political-ideological training and its other dimension, propaganda.

As you know, ideological training is done for different levels including officers, non-commissioned officers, staff, and soldiers, in view of the requirements, abilities, and talents. For example, at the Air Sciences and Technology University, during a period of four years of around-the-clock training at the officer's level there are a total of 450 hours of lessons in Islamic knowledge and higher and ideological political training, along with this university's specialist training. In view of this university's admissions capacity and the volume of its work, annually more than 4,000 hours of classes are given in Islamic knowledge by experienced professors and under the supervision of technical ideological-political experts. During the period of their military service, the graduates from the Air Force University must undergo 140 hours of ideological-political training, the higher cycle, and the journeyman cycle. For the continuation of the ideological-political training cycle and to reinforce the academic and political foundations of cadre personnel while they are in service, there are about 9,000 hours of training in the service units in ethics, religious commands, and the Glorious Koran.

Along with the classroom training, there is also correspondence training for a special group of people who cannot attend classes permanently due to the necessities of their occupations. These people include pilots, physicians, and administrative and flight personnel.

This procedure is also followed in its own special way at the non-commissioned and staff training levels.

To familiarize soldiers with the high teachings and commands of Islam, along with the military training, practical prayer training is also given.

Along with the above training, classes in ethics, Islamic teachings, the Glorious Koran and the commands of Islam are taught in the cultural complexes and organizational houses for the benefit of the respected families of the personnel. This has been quite effective in raising the level of knowledge and the religious inclinations of the personnel to a very desirable extent.

In this respect, in the last two years 260,000 hours of lessons have been taught in Islamic teachings and in political ideology by experienced and practiced professors at the level of the entire force, under the supervision of the Training Office under the Political-Ideological Directorate.

In the propaganda dimension also the best services have been given to the personnel through the hiring of talented artists in such areas as theater, calligraphy, painting, graphics, design, film making, news teams, publications, and other areas. We believe that sometimes one elegant artistic work like a painting, a forceful play, or an article full of content can have a more positive effect on the listener or viewer than hours of classes and speeches.

The Air Force Political-Ideological Directorate now actively manages more than 70 libraries at various university, training center, and public levels with about 300,000 volumes. Good measures have been taken among the Armed Forces in this area, including the cataloging of more than 17,000 books and the formation of library reference stations in compliance with the standards of the National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Likewise, positive steps have been taken in this

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area through the use of computer hardware services, and eight large libraries in this force have been automated to create speed and provide library services.

In the current year, with the preparation and application of advanced computer hardware and software in the areas of design and typesetting, a new transformation has been made in Air Force publications. Six books have been prepared and printed or are being printed with the titles *Flight to Infinity, Springtime of Hearts, Pages of Freedom, Eagles on the Hunt*, a book titled *Flight to Coloring* and one called *Play* in two volumes, for children and adolescents in the A and B age groups. Likewise on God's day, 19 Bahman, the book *Flight to Infinity*, which is about the life of Major General Pilot Martyr 'Abbasi Baba'i will be published and given to those who are interested. In the area of film making, extensive and valuable research has also been done over a period of two years on the various dimensions of the life of Major General Pilot Martyr 'Abbasi Baba'i, the result of which will be a 26-part collection titled *Sacrificial Victim*. This collection is being made with the cooperation of the Shahed Group of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Other political-ideological activities include cooperation with the Islamic Propaganda Organization on the making of the film about the attack on "H-3," which shows the bravery and sacrifices of the zealous pilots of this force in the eight years of the sacred defense. This film came out on the nation's cinema screens this year, and was welcomed by the families and personnel of the Air Force.

With the cooperation of the Martyr Foundation of the Islamic revolution and to fight the cultural invasion, a film titled "The Red Circle" was made this year and will soon be shown on the nation's cinema screens.

With regard to Koran issues, the cultural complexes have been reorganized so that they can operate comprehensively and self-sufficiently.

Our future programs and programs underway include the great cultural sports festival,, to be held next year, concurrent with the production of the Koran dictionary. During the festival 500 to 600 youths and adolescents in various age groups will compete in events in art, athletics, the Koran, and academic subjects.

[SAFF] As you know, this year elections will be held for the Fifth Majles. According to the clear statements from our late imam and the exalted leader and based on regulations, the armed forces must refrain from taking political positions. Is it your excellency's view that this refraining from taking political positions and declaring exemption from taking political stands will lead to an absence of political insight among military personnel?

[Chief] That is a good question. Since the mission of the Armed Forces is to defend the territorial integrity and the entirety of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Armed Forces are therefore not affiliated with any special group or faction, that it would want to defend the interest of any special group or faction. The army belongs to the country and the nation. It has special missions, and that is to preserve and defend the Islamic nation. However, this does not mean that the army has no political insight, because there is a difference between a political position and political insight. All political organizations such as parties, groups, and other entities have political alignments, and therefore the army cannot have membership in any group or party, but it gains an understanding of the enemy in the shadow of political insight. The late Modarres, may God's mercy by upon him, used a lovely expression: "our politics are the same as our religion and our religion is the same as our politics." The concept of political ideology is built upon this very foundation. Political-ideological personnel not only have no hesitation about discussing politics, they become familiar with these kinds of issues in the training textbooks, and they engage in debate and analysis.

[SAFF] Thank you for giving your time to the magazine, and peace.

Iran: Paper on U.S. 'Isolation' at G-7 Summit

LD0207155196 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jun 96 pp 2,15

[Unattributed commentary: "The G-7 Summit: U.S. Isolation Focused Once Again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The group of seven (G7) countries are to begin their three-day summit in Lyon, France today with President Clinton expected to make a showcase of his supposedly successful stewardship of the American economy.

Hosted by President Jacques Chirac of France, the G7 summit will more likely be a showcase of U.S. isolation the second time around. The U.S. will be meeting its allies - Japan, France, Britain, Canada and Italy - who are angered at what they say are U.S. efforts to meddle in their affairs.

Their targets of opposition are two U.S. measures - the so called Helms-Burton law, passed in March by the U.S. Congress and which bars foreign companies from investing in Cuba, and a similar measure passed last week by the U.S. House of Representatives seeking to

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punish non-American companies that invest 40 million dollars or more in the oil or gas sectors in Iran.

President Jacques Santer of the European Commission who, earlier this week, met President Clinton in Washington has called the measures "unjustifiable" and "ineffective".

Over the weekend, leaders of the 15 nations that make up the European Union unanimously approved a statement expressing their "deep concern" over the U.S. measures, preparing to challenge them before the World Trade Organization.

Canada, host of last year's G7 summit, is preparing a similar measure of its own, punishing any Canadian company that seeks to comply with the Helms-Burton law.

G7 countries meeting in Lyon are to discuss global plans for the next millennium in an ever-growing world economy. Foremost in their agenda is the growing problem of unemployment. The U.S., on the other hand, is there to convince its partners to support its unilateral action of punishing its enemies.

Undersecretary of State, Joan Spero, defending U.S. unilateral trade sanctions before reporters in Washington, said the sanctions (against Cuba, Iran and Libya) "are fully consistent with our multilateral obligations... I believe we have just about the best record around on supporting open trade and investment, but we have also made it very clear we think there are a handful of very clear exceptions to our approach to open trade and investment and those are states that do not follow international rules... In these situations we feel we have an obligation as a leader of the multilateral system to act forcefully."

Ironically, only last month the U.S. agreed to release compensation for the victims of the Iranian passenger airliner shot down in Iranian airspace over the Persian Gulf. The damage which it sought to compensate was the result of an act done unilaterally, the mistake of having done so it now admits. Is the U.S. act of unilaterally imposing trade sanctions on countries whose guilt have not been internationally recognized justified? If so, Cuba, Iran and Libya can also act unilaterally against U.S. crimes, and acts of interference on their economy. As far as terrorism is concerned, Israel is an embodiment of state-sponsored terrorism. The UN finding on recent Israeli bombardments of south Lebanon as a deliberate attempt to wipe out a civilian population is supported by documentary evidence. Unfortunately the U.S. continues its blatant defence of Israel, preferring to be blind.

As to the U.S. accusation that Iran is manufacturing weapons of mass destruction, it is common knowledge that Israel has at least 200 nuclear warheads in its arsenal and does not allow international bodies to inspect them in violation of international rules and regulations. Iran's nuclear programme, on the other hand, is under the surveillance of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is to be recalled that when Arab countries decided to impose "secondary boycotts" on Israel, the measure was met with strong opposition by the U.S. Unfortunately, it offers no alibi of why it refuses to chastise Israel, the country most deserving of punishment as a terrorist or a threat to humanity through its weapons of mass destruction. Instead, the U.S. continues to point an accusing finger at Iran. The reason is that American politics is helplessly dependent on its pockets which are filled with Zionist proteges. As to U.S. claims for leadership of a multilateral system characterized by a multilateral approach to trade disputes, the U.S. should know that countries, even its allies, do not buy the idea anymore. Trade can no longer be a conduit for political bullying. Countries are loathe to follow economic policies that serve one-sided interests. Economic competition is the key to a healthy global economy. Apparently the mistake lies in the U.S. premise that it is the tribunal for economic and political disputes in the post Cold War era. Acting on the wrong premise, it thinks others will follow suit when it decides to chastise one "rogue" country. Labelling a country as "rogue" is itself self-serving. The world community is an experienced one. G7 members cannot be duped into supporting trade measures intended as political weapons. To think of it any other way is to deny the necessity for a multilateral approach to global problems.

Nepal

Nepal: Nepali Congress Concludes Agenda for Budget Meeting

BK2706023696 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 26 Jun 96

[Report by THE KATHMANDU POST reporter — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, June 25 - The Nepali Congress [NC] parliamentary party today finalised the agenda of the party for the budget session of the parliament beginning Wednesday.

The parliamentary party also unanimously called on the government to take firm action against those found guilty in the letters of credit (LC) scam, to which the prime minister and leader of the NC parliamentary party, Sher Bahadur Deuba, expressed his "support and commitment."

Concurring with Monday's decisions of the work management committee of the parliamentary party, the meet-

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ing decided to raise problems of citizenship distribution, parliamentary ratification of the Mahakali Treaty and women's property rights as major political issues in the session.

"The meeting decided to continue in line with the path set by the last year's programmes, policies and budget while agreeing to include some new important programmes," NC chief whip Anand P Dhungana told the press after the meeting.

While a few members of the parliamentary party raised questions about the recent promotion of a few RPP [Rashtriya Prajatantra Party] ministers, the meeting generally agreed that political stability should be maintained in the country and that the government should complete its full term.

Some members also expressed apprehensions regarding the viability and usefulness of the Mahakali Treaty to Nepal. The concerns were cleared by the prime minister who said the treaty was not harmful to the country.

In his address to the meeting, NC president and former prime minister, Girija Prasad Koirala called on the members to unitedly assist and cooperate with the coalition government.

Nepal: National Assembly, House of Representatives Open Session

BK2706112596 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 27 Jun 96

[Report by THE KATHMANDU POST reporter — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, June 26 - The tenth session of both the National Assembly and the House of Representatives started here Wednesday.

The upper house of parliament started under the chairmanship of the assembly chairman Beni Bahadur Karki.

Welcoming the members to the parliament session, Chairman Karki sought the cooperation of the parliamentarians during the session for consolidation of the multiparty democracy and overall development of the country.

He stressed the need for strengthening democracy by protecting the parliamentary democratic system, the government and traditions.

He said he had full faith the members of the assembly will show their cooperation in the proceeding of this session.

Similarly, the session of lower house of parliament was chaired by Speaker Ram Chandra Poudyal. Speaking on the occasion he said new experience and lessons have been gained in the multi-party parliamentary system and this valued experiences needs to be put into practice.

Speaking at the National Assembly, MP Subash Chand Newang said the Acts concerning the voters list need to be reviewed. Voter who have reached their voting age have not been able to exercise their right to vote due to the faults in the Act, he said.

People trying to register their names at the local offices have been returned due some irresponsible activities by some officials, he said. At present only the voters with a permanent address are eligible to get their name registered and the people with no permanent address have been denied their right to vote.

At this session, governmental policies and budget of next fiscal year is scheduled to be discussed. The session will also finalise the parliamentary bills to be introduced from the governmental and non-governmental levels.

Among the bills are 11 governmental bills, which is already distributed to the MPs and three bills related to socials issues.

Members of the Nepal Communist Party (UML) voiced their concern on the voters list and the act relating to the issue.

The sessions on both the houses started at 2 p.m. Wednesday and a minute of silence was observed to express their condolences on the sad demise of MP Dhanapati Upadhaya.

The second sitting of both the houses are scheduled to be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday.

Nepal: Finance Minister Says Economy 'Better Than Expectations'

BK2906114896 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 28 Jun 96

[Report by THE KATHMANDU POST reporter — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] KATHMANDU, June 27 - Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat addressing economists, professors, sociologists and experts about the upcoming budget claimed today that economic indicators are better than expectations.

According to Dr Mahat, the growth rate would increase by 6.1 percent, export by 8 percent, and investment significantly. "The inflation is 8 percent and money supply is under control," Mahat said.

Mahat further added that the ratio of budget deficit and international borrowing in GDP will remain more or less equal to that of last year. "However, for last few

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years the expenditure is growing, which has created a challenge for the government to balance the income and expenditure," he said.

The new budget is to concentrate on increasing growth, which is very important for the investment in social and rural sector, Mahat said. He said that the budget would be emphasising on income generating programmes to tackle the unemployment problem. "We will be initiating programmes to create human resources." [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Pakistan: Paper Reports U.S., India Strengthen Defense Ties

BK0107133796 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by I.A. Ali]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] During his recent call on visit, the US ambassador to India, Frank Wisner, assured the Indian Defense Minister Mulayam Singh Yadev that US cooperation in defense matters with India would continue. The statement has not come as a surprise as the US diplomat only reiterated his government's policy being followed hitherto forth. If it is linked with the statement of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, DRDO [Defense Research Development Organization] director general that India's first indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) would be flight tested after India's 11 years of research, with the GE-404 engine, made by a US firm, in February 1997, it confirms that both these countries are already cooperating in defense field since long. It has also been reported that India has used the same technology in the indigenously produced "Kaveri Engine" which will be cleared for mass production in Dec 1997. The same will later be used in India's Light Combat Aircrafts.

For having intimately close cooperation, India and the USA have also set up a Defense Policy Group (DPG) and a Joint Technology Group (JTP) to promote cooperation in the defense field. The Defense Policy Group explores areas of defense cooperation and the Joint Technology Group addresses to the issues of technology transfer.

If one looked back in the past, it is revealed that during 1980s, the USA assisted India with the setting up of the interim test range of missile testing, supplied GE 404 engines for the indigenous light combat aircraft which interestingly, are going to be used about after a decade, upgraded certain radars of the air defense ground environment system and promised to help in the anti-tank missile program. Apart from these, India is also likely to get from the US, the technology of across-the-board electronic system, avionics, millimetric wave seeker technology for the indigenous Nag anti-tank missiles, evaluation of the derated Alison engine for the advanced light helicopter and procurement of computerized war-gaming simulator.

The USA is not only assisting India in conventional weapons but is also helping her in its nuclear and missile programs. The US energy secretary, Hazel O'Leary during one of her visits confirmed that India and USA were collaborating with each other not only to improve nuclear safety in both the countries but the USA, the only superpower of the world, was also learning something from India as well. It is also known the world over that the USA has opened the doors of its universities and its research centers for the nuclear students and research scientists of India. In 1987 only there were thirteen thousand nuclear students and scientists studying and working in US universities and research laboratories.

It is not difficult to deduce from the closeness of Indo-US collaboration in the defense field while keeping in view the present balance of power which is already in favor of India that the USA perceives a future threat from China in this region. The ground realities also indicate that US and some of the Western countries are patronizing India to develop its nuclear and missile program in order to make her a regional power to counter China. The deployment of Prithvi on Pakistan's border is also reflective of India's multidimensional ambitions, which also poses equal threat to China and other regional countries. It certainly enjoys the blessings of the US in particular and the West in general.

A few months back three planted Indian scientists had been indicted by the US on charges of espionage and stealing for and selling to India the "B-2 Stealth Bomber" secrets and Mercury Cadmium Telluride Defectors for tracking missiles. These Indians transferred the stealth technology to India which enabled the IAF [Indian Air Force] to get 90% immunity from radars. Astonishingly neither the US Administration has taken any action against the Indian Government, which presumably, planted these people nor the Indian scientists were banned in the USA. Rather US cooperation with India further increased. The flight control software of Indian LCA has been tested in flight for approach and landing on an NT-33 aircraft of Calspan Corporation of the United States. Before the LCA flies next year, the flight control software will be tested for up and away flight as well as at higher speeds on a Vista F-16 aircraft in the United States.

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It is relevant to recall that one of the Risk Reports, prepared by Washington-based institute "Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control" has also furnished details as to how India had acquired the missile technology step by step. The report states, that India for the first time got substantial help from the Americans in the 1960s, followed by the French in the 1970s, then from the Germans in the 1980s and finally, again from the Americans in the 1990s. The report concluded that India had consistently used foreign help to convert its space rockets to nuclear-capable missiles and imports, some clandestine, some overt, had nourished India's nuclear and rocket efforts from the start.

According to another study recently carried out in the Pentagon, India has recently obtained the US ring-laser gyroscopes for fighter planes. She is also hoping to get high quality accelerators to measure missile speed more accurately and "laser radars" to improve guidance computers which play a pivotal role in the development and deployment of missiles and missile systems. To that end, India is using 100 American companies, out of which this study lists 20, which can meet India's need for missile technology related items. This outside help, mostly American, has enabled India to build two of the most deadly missiles, the 250 km range "Prithvi" and 2,500 km range "Agni", both capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The Indian authorities have already mass produced the "Prithvi" and handed it over to the western command of the Indian Army, for deployment along the adjoining Pakistani borders.

The facts cited hithertoforth, therefore, endorse that USA and the West have observed double standards in dealing with the nuclear and defense related matters with India vis-a-vis Pakistan. They can be largely blamed for the nuclear and military peril being faced by the subcontinent today. Not only enriched uranium but also heavy water that enabled India to explode a nuclear device in 1974 was supplied by the United States but also the reactor was given by Canada. Even after the Indian nuclear explosion, President Carter overruled his own Atomic Energy Commission and the US House of Representatives to supply another 28 tons of enriched uranium to India for its Tarapore reactor in 1980. Additionally, he persuaded France to continue the nuclear supplies that Washington could not provide because of its anti-proliferation laws. It is an ample proof of double standards of the nuclear haves and speaks of their discriminatory policies against Pakistan vis-a-vis India. India's hectic efforts to modernize and multiply its defense and nuclear potential have posed alarming threats to the regional security. The recent assurance of the US ambassador to India for strengthening defense ties would, therefore, further compound the lurking dangers.

Pakistan: Official Vows Cooperation for Kashmir Hostages' Release

BK0107163096 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, July 1 (AFP) — Pakistan said Monday it would provide full cooperation to secure the release of four western nationals abducted last year by a separatist group in the Indian held part of Kashmir, officials said.

Pakistan fully shares the "anguish and anxiety" of the family members of the hostages, Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali told a four-member German parliamentarian delegation.

The German MPs arrived here to seek Islamabad's assistance.

An American Donald Hutchings, two Britons Paul Wells and Keith Gangan and a German Dirk Hasert, were abducted in July last year by the al-Faran group of Kashmiri separatists.

Officials said the foreign minister assured the German delegation that Pakistan had condemned this "terrorist act" and would continue to work closely with the affected countries to seek an early release of the hostages.

However, the foreign minister said "it was strange that the kidnappers had remained untraceable" despite the presence of 700,000 Indian troops in Kashmir.

India and Pakistan, since their independence in 1947, have fought two wars over Kashmir which is claimed by both.

Kashmiri militants stepped up their separatist campaign in 1989 and since then more than 12,000 people have died in the Kashmiri unrest.

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming the militants. Islamabad denies the charge but gives diplomatic and moral support to what it calls a "legitimate struggle" for self-determination.

Pakistan: Asif Ali Discusses Hostage Issue With German Delegation

BK0207055996 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A four-member German parliamentary delegation called on Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in Islamabad yesterday and sought Pakistan's assistance for the release of the hostages held in

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occupied Kashmir, including a German national. The foreign minister said he fully shares the grief and concern of the family members of the hostages. The foreign minister also said it is quite surprising that despite the presence of 700,000 Indian troops in occupied Kashmir, the abductors could not be traced. He also said that Pakistan is committed to get the hostages released. He said the prime minister herself has condemned the kidnap incident and she has appealed for their release a number of times. The foreign minister also informed them that Pakistan's record is good in securing the release of hostages that in this matter also, it will make all possible efforts and will fully cooperate with the countries concerned to secure the release of the hostages. The members of the delegation appreciated Pakistan's cooperation to deal with the crisis.

The German delegation also met with Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, and Syed Zafar Ali Shah, National Assembly Deputy Speaker, and exchanged views with them on the issue of the German hostages.

Pakistan: Bhutto Briefs Chinese Naval Delegation on Kashmir

BK0207044796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chinese naval delegation led by Admiral Zhang Lianzhong called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. Benazir Bhutto said that Sino-Pakistan friendship has stood all tests of time and it is exemplary for other countries, especially for South Asian countries. She referred to the friendly ties between the two countries and said that China is Pakistan's most trustworthy friend as it has helped Pakistan through all its difficult times.

The prime minister apprised the delegation about the situation in occupied Kashmir, which is deteriorating due to India's illegal occupation. She said incidents of violence and the dishonoring of women in occupied territory have increased over the years. The world should pay attention to the plight of innocent Kashmiris. She added that the people of the occupied valley look forward to the implementation of the UN resolutions regarding their right of self- determination.

Matters of bilateral interests and regional affairs were also discussed at this occasion.

Pakistan: French President's Response to Bhutto's Letter

BK0207060296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has addressed a letter to President of France, the prime minister of Japan, and other leaders of the G-7 countries asking for debt relief for developing countries, for liberalized access to Western markets, and for greater resource commitment to assist the developing countries. A spokesman of the Foreign Office said in Islamabad that these leaders acknowledged the value of the perspective which the prime minister had elucidated. They undertook to add their voice to those favoring the development of third world countries. They said that their contribution to the G-7 proceedings at Lyons would benefit from the advice tendered by the prime minister of Pakistan. In his reply, President Chirac said he fully shared the prime minister's analysis of the consequences of under development. He undertook to request the G-7 partners to show more solidarity and preserve a substantial flow of development aid on both bilateral and multilateral basis. President Chirac also agreed with the prime minister's stress on the fact the economic development depended on regional environment which ensured the stability and security of states and that this remark applied very specially to South Asia.

The Japanese prime minister appreciated the thoughtful and frank advice of the prime minister as well as her firm commitment to the betterment of Pakistan and other developing countries. He also spelled out what he thought was a basis for a new global partnership amongst developed and developing countries. He too picked up the prime minister's mention of the restraints placed upon development by political and military tension.

Pakistan: Japan's Hashimoto Replies to Bhutto's Letter on G-7 Summit

BK0107143996 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Japanese prime minister, Ryutaru Hashimoto, has said the bleak realities of the poor countries need to be addressed both by the developing and the developed countries with strong determination. He said this in his reply to a letter sent to him by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the eve of the G-7 summit in Lyons. Mr. Hashimoto said developing countries problems are among the main items on the agenda of the Lyon summit. In his letter, the Japanese leader corroborated Prime Minister Benazir

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Bhuto's perception that the economic development of developing countries cannot be effectively pursued under the restraint of political and military tensions since substantial amount of resources tend to be diverted to unproductive expenditures in such conditions. He said the issue of regional conflicts should be addressed from both political and economic aspects.

Commending Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's firm commitment to the betterment of Pakistan and other developing countries, Mr. Hashimoto said he has always appreciated her thoughtful and frank advice.

Pakistan: Bhutto Claims Judiciary Pressured To Topple Government

BK3006085896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said there is no confrontation with the judiciary, whose main aim is to interpret the law and the constitution. Talking to newsmen at a dinner hosted by Makhdum Shahabuddin, minister of state for finance, in Islamabad last night, she said a particular group is instigating the judiciary to oust the democratic government of Pakistan People's Party. She said this group in return has offered the judiciary the post of prime minister and chief ministership. She hoped that they will not lured by these offers, as the judiciary comprises of serious-minded people who are above temptation. The prime minister said the government has full respect for the judiciary and in return they should remain impartial. This way the people will realize that they are not taking one particular side.

Responding to a question on the local bodies elections, Benazir Bhutto said the government has already announced that 1996 would be the year of local bodies elections.

Replying to a question on her earlier statement that there was six-week crisis period for her government, the prime minister said in 1977 it was the Army, while in 1990 the President's House was used for toppling the governments. She said now there is no such situation. Only a few elements are conspiring to use these institutions. She said she was sure the institutions would be cautious and each step would be binding to the constitution.

Pakistan: Prime Minister Sees 'No Threat' to Democracy

BK3006122596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said all constitutional institutions are working smoothly and there is no threat to the system and democracy. She was talking to the Punjab food minister, Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema, and special assistants to the chief minister of Punjab, Mr. Khalid Randhawa and Mir Aslam Gichki, who called on her in Islamabad today.

The prime minister assured them that her government would fulfill its commitments and promises and provide basic amenities to the common man at his doorstep. The prime minister also said that new social contract was part of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] manifetso and the government had started taking steps toward its implementation. She said that they would ensure people's participation in government at all levels under the new social contract.

Pakistan: Hussain Expresses 'Horror' at Court Verdict

BK0107032996 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 28 Jun 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, June 28, 1996—The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leader Mr. Altaf Hussain has expressed his appalling horror at the overturning of the verdict of the Supreme Court of Pakistan given less than 24 hours earlier by hasty legislation in the Punjab Assembly with the view to deny the functioning of grass root democracy in the country.

Throughout its tenure in office Benazir Zardari has governed without allowing the functioning of any democratically elected city administration in Pakistan. The verdict of the Lahore High Court given two years ago which had called for holding fresh elections or the restoration of the dissolved elected corporations was not obeyed on legal technicalities. However, now in a most brazen annihilation of the foundations of representative Government, Benazir had taken the unbelievable step of not only continuing its established vendetta against the country's judiciary, it had practically usurped the exercise of judicial power in the country through puppet assemblies, there by, subverting the foundation of political constitutionals and judicial administration. The re-appointment of nominated bureaucrats as Mayors of such corporations established that Benazir Bhutto was falsely touting her democratic credentials nationally and internationally while in reality she was determined to act worse then a ruthless dictator.

Nationally and internationally this act of usurping the functions of the elected representatives of people throughout the cities and towns of Pakistan meant

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that Benazir Bhutto treated with contempt the right of franchise of the ordinary people of Pakistan. The MQM leader added that initially it was the MQM and Muhajirs who were faced with such acts of naked fascism at the hands of Benazir Government. Now it was for the common men of every town, village and city in Pakistan to feel and clearly see the degree of denial of their rights by her dictatorial attitude. Mr. Altaf Hussain, therefore, appealed to the people of Pakistan to take all possible steps to ensure that democracy is not stifled in this manner by the Bhutto regime. He also appealed to the President and the Chief of the Army Staff to take immediate measures to ensure that Benazir Bhutto was not allowed to destroy the foundations of the administration of justice in this manner, nor deprive the ordinary person of Pakistan his right of franchise to have grass root level democracy in Pakistan. If this action was not taken urgently, Mr. Altaf Hussain added, Benazir Bhutto was acting in such a berserk manner that the foundations of national security seemed greatly threatened.

Pakistan: JI, PML-N Join Hands in Antigovernment Struggle

BK0107135996 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Jul 96 p 1

[Report from THE NATION correspondents]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — A joint four-member committee was formed by the main opposition parties — the PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] and Jamaat-e-Islami [JI] — on Sunday to work for the mutual coordination aimed at the ouster of the Benazir Bhutto government. It was given two weeks' time to submit its recommendations.

The committee comprises Liaquat Baloch and Chaudhry Ijaz from the Jamaat, while Khawaja Asif and Sardar Zulfiqar Khosa will be from the PML-N.

The PML-N will support the JI's July 3 sit-in call, while the JI will provide manpower to the PML-N at its bad public meeting on July 4.

Meanwhile, the committee members have hinted at the chances of a greater alliance. Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif who had gone to the Mansoora headquarters of the JI to condole with Qazi Hussain Ahmed death of his party workers in the Rawalpindi shoot-out, held a detailed meeting with him. This was Nawaz's second visit to Mansoora after the 1993 general election.

The two parties decided to continue their struggle against the government independently but would support each other in strikes, sit-in demonstrations, and processions, said the sources.

At a post-meeting briefing to journalists, Qazi Hussain and Nawaz Sharif said that their respective parties had decided to coordinate with each other for the ouster of what they said the "corrupt" Benazir government .

"Mir Murtaza Bhutto and leaders of the Sindh [word indistinct] have contacted and assured me of their support against the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government," Qazi Hussain said.

He claimed all the religious parties, including the JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema] (Mualana Fazlur Rehman group), had realised that the government had crossed all limits.

He maintained that the government of Benazir Bhutto was deliberately projecting vulgarity and obscenity in the country and added that the re-dissolution of the local bodies had exposed Benazir's belief in democracy. "She is to impose a one party rule in the country, but we (political parties) will not allow her to do so."

About the reference filed by Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar against Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the opposition said: "I have not received any formal information about this. And I could not read the Sunday's newspapers." Majeed Malik and Senator Shujaat Hussain accompanied Nawaz Sharif, while Qazi Hussain was joined by Liaquat Baloch, Ijaz Chaudhry, Prof Ghafoor, Aslam Saleemi, and Hafiz Idrees.

The sources maintained the while the PML-N insisted on the formation of a formal alliance, the JI observed it was too rely to raise the issue.

Pakistan: JI Contacts Afghan Refugees To Assist in Protest

BK0107155596 Islamabad AL-AKHBAR in Urdu 1 Jul 96 pp 7, 8

[PPA report]

[FBIS Translated Text] NOWSHEHRA — In order to make its protest campaign on 3 July a success, the Jama'at-i-Islami [JI] has made full preparations. Other opposition parties, such as Awami National Party, Muslim League, and Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Islam (Sami-ul-Haq Group) have instructed their workers to remain in the background, but to provide support to JI's protest movement. According to sources, Jama'at-i-Islami has started large scale preparations for its 3 July protest movement.

The JI has contacted the Afghan refugees living in the refugee camps in the Northwest Frontier Province [NWFP]. The Jama'at has formed a special force, consisting of its workers who have been trained in Afghanistan and the activists of Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba [the student wing of Jama'at-i-Islami]. This force has

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been named "Commando Dharna [sit-in] Action." According to sources, the Jama'at-i-Islami will display its utmost strength at this occasion.

Meanwhile, JI and other opposition parties are contacting each other and secret talks are being held in order to create problems for the government. Government agencies have been put on alert to foil this movement and various agencies are preparing lists of active members of Jama'at-i-Islami all over the province. Hundreds of JI activists will be arrested one day before the sit-in. Jama'at-i-Islami workers plan to stage a sit-in in front of the deputy commissioners' office in Peshawar and other districts of NWFP. According to the planned strategy of the JI, its prominent workers will remain in hiding until the day of the sit-in.

Pakistan: Newspapers Strike Against Imposition of Tax

BK0207060596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A total strike was observed yesterday in response to the call of the joint action council of the All Pakistan Newspaper Society and Pakistan Newspapers and Periodicals Organization. At a meeting in Karachi, they also decided not to publish any newspapers today. The strike was observed against the imposition of a general sales tax on newspapers and periodicals.

Pakistan: 'Massive' Turnout Reported in Azad Kashmir Elections

BK3006140396 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Polling for 40 seats of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] legislative assembly was held throughout Azad Kashmir and in different cities of Pakistan today. There are more than 1.6 million registered voters in Azad Kashmir and in many cities of Pakistan where Kashmiri refugees are residing. PTV representative Syed Said Shah reports that a massive turnout of voters was witnessed at various polling stations of Azad Kashmir. The polling began at 0800 and continued till 1600 in the afternoon. Eligible voters had started assembling at their respective polling stations since early morning. There are 296 candidates representing various political parties, besides independents who are contesting the elections. More than 2,000 polling stations with over 3,000 polling booths were set up. The AJK Election Commission made elaborate arrangement for holding the elections in a fair and impartial manner. Strict security measures were taken to maintain law and order situation. Contingents of AJK police were posted at the polling stations. A huge rush was also witnessed in Rawalpindi and other cities where voters exercised their right of franchise.

The chief election commissioner of AJK, Mr. Justice, retired, Sardar Mohammad Ashraf Khan, today visited a number of polling stations and inspected the polling process. He told journalists that special measures have been taken to ensure safety of voters and polling staff. He appreciated the hard work and efforts of police and law enforcing agencies in maintaining peace at the polling stations. The polling staff told journalists that polling was held in a free and fair manner. The journalists on the occasion also some questions of the polling agents of different political parties who termed the elections as free, fair, transparent and peaceful.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Troops Make 'Spectacular Advances' in Campaigns

BK0207105996 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 1 Jul 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SECURITY Forces have made spectacular advances since the launch of Operations "Thunderbolt" and "Ranahanda" in the Eastern sector capturing several Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) positions together with large stocks of LTTE supplies according to Army Commander Lt. Gen. Rohan Daluwatte.

"We have forced the Tigers to abandon key positions. They are on the retreat," Lt. General Daluwatte told the Daily News.

At least 25 Tiger rebels have been killed during the twin operations "Thunderbolt" and "Ranahanda" which began from Trincomalee and enters its second week today.

According to Lt. Gen. Daluwatte they had recovered five rebel bodies while most of the LTTE bases had been vacated amidst the full force of the army fire power assisted by helicopter gunships of the Air Force.

Rebel positions captured include Tiriyaya, Nadiya base, No. 50 Base and Thallady base. Tiger Radio intercepts confirmed the death of at least 25 LTTE cadres and injuries to a large number. There were no casualties on the side of the forces, reports said.

Troops also seized a large haul of medical supplies and food stocks from the abandoned bases. Among the items recovered were battle uniforms, gunny bags, wire cuttings, mosquito coils, magazines, wire cutters, flour stocks, 98 rice sacks, 58 gunny bags of dhal, green gram, boxes of matches, clothing etc.

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Meanwhile, a group of Tigers who were on a mission to a Air Force camp at Kittuluttu in the Trincomalee district, were blown up by their own explosive device which went off accidentally. Air Force troops later recovered two burnt bodies together with one T 56 weapon, three hand grenades, two T 56 magazines and some combat equipment at the scene.

Another report said that the Navy destroyed an enemy craft near Thallady during a fire fight with a Navy patrol boat on Friday.

Two civilians were also injured when LTTE cadres threw a hand grenade at a security forces vehicle at Ariyali East, in Valikamam Division, Jaffna District.

Sri Lanka: Radio Reports 64 Deaths in Confrontation

BK0207112696 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces killed at least 35 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and wounded 20 others in a confrontation between Meegasgodella and Kala in the Trincomalee District. According to official reports, the security forces on route-clearing patrol were confronted by a large group of terrorists yesterday. The patrol, assisted by reinforcements and artillery fire, retaliated effectively. Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry says that 27 soldiers and two officers were also killed; four others were injured. LTTE communications indicate that at least 16 of the wounded Tigers are in critical condition.

Sri Lanka: Editorial Favors Former Envoy to U.S. as UN Chief

BK0107140796 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 27 Jun 96

[Editorial: "Man for the UN" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A few years ago, Lanka's ambassador to the US, Jayantha Dhanapala, did what was described as the impossible: he gave up a prestigious, highly paid job in the UN and decided to revert to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service. The reason: a job as a career diplomat is far "more challenging and intellectually stimulating than chasing paper as an international civil servant".

The international applause for skilfully chairing the UN Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], held last year, apart, the above nuggets from the career of Jayantha Dhanapala should convince the UN that it has found in this able Lankan diplomat, a suitable candidate for the post of Secretary General [sentence as published].

What this troubled world needs now are men and women who could put the interests of humanity and international peace above self-glorification and the pursuit of narrow selfish interests. Dhanapala has shown the world that he could measure up to these standards.

If Jayantha Dhanapala wins the UN's most prized job, as some sections of the world press say he would, he will bring glory to his motherland. It will be a shining hour for Sri Lanka, a country which has been maligned by sections of the international community over the country's unresolved ethnic conflict. It will prove that Sri Lanka is not short of men of substance and vision who could steer the world to a better tomorrow.

Dhanapala, after all, is no flash in the pan. Sri Lanka has had a galaxy of stars in the councils of the world in the past. One such personality was Shirley Amerasinghe, who served as Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN and chaired the all important UN Law of the Sea Conference. Despite being recalled to his country, amid news that he would be the UN's next head, Amerasinghe was retained by the world body as the Chairman of the UN Law of the Sea Conference — a singular honour for any public figure, anywhere.

Although Dhanapala served his country diligently as a career diplomat for years, it was only as chairman of the NPT Review Conference that he caught the eye of the world. He faced the daunting challenge of getting some 175 countries to agree to an indefinite extension of the NPT and he achieved it with grace and aplomb.

Considering the fact that one is on thorny ground when NPT issues are taken up, Dhanapala's achievement could be regarded as a tour de force in international diplomacy. He certainly has the stuff that able UN chiefs are made of.

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